



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 5567

LCO No. 2431



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, section 2 of this act, and sections 10-220 and 10-233d of the
3 general statutes, as amended by this act, "alternative school program"
4 means a school or program offered by a local or regional board of
5 education that is designed to serve the educational needs of students
6 outside of a regular classroom setting or general education program
7 offered by such board of education and that is provided in accordance
8 with the provisions of sections 10-15, 10-16 and 10-16b of the general
9 statutes and guidelines adopted by the Department of Education,
10 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

11 (b) A local or regional board of education shall offer an alternative
12 school program to any student (1) who is under sixteen years of age
13 during a period of expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of
14 section 10-233d of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) who
15 is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years and has been
16 expelled for the first time, in accordance with the provisions of said

17 section 10-233d, (3) as part of an adult education activity, pursuant to
18 section 10-69 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, during a
19 period of expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of said section
20 10-233d, or (4) enrolling in school who is nineteen years of age or older
21 and cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by
22 twenty-one years of age, or (5) who, in the opinion of such board and
23 with the informed consent of such student or a parent or guardian of
24 such student, as applicable, would benefit academically in an
25 alternative school program.

26 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall make available
27 on its Internet web site information relating to the alternative school
28 program offered under this section, including, but not limited to, the
29 program's purpose, location, contact information, staff directory and
30 enrollment criteria.

31 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2015, the
32 Department of Education shall develop alternative school program
33 guidelines for the purpose of assisting local and regional boards of
34 education in the provision of alternative school programs.

35 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
36 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
37 *1, 2014*):

38 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall maintain good
39 public elementary and secondary schools, implement the educational
40 interests of the state, as defined in section 10-4a, and provide such
41 other educational activities as in its judgment will best serve the
42 interests of the school district; provided any board of education may
43 secure such opportunities in another school district in accordance with
44 provisions of the general statutes and shall give all the children of the
45 school district as nearly equal advantages as may be practicable; shall
46 provide an appropriate learning environment for its students which
47 includes (1) adequate instructional books, supplies, materials,

48 equipment, staffing, facilities and technology, (2) equitable allocation
49 of resources among its schools, (3) proper maintenance of facilities,
50 and (4) a safe school setting; shall, in accordance with the provisions of
51 subsection (f) of this section, maintain records of allegations,
52 investigations and reports that a child has been abused or neglected by
53 a school employee, as defined in section 53a-65, employed by the local
54 or regional board of education; shall have charge of the schools of its
55 respective school district; shall make a continuing study of the need for
56 school facilities and of a long-term school building program and from
57 time to time make recommendations based on such study to the town;
58 shall adopt and implement an indoor air quality program that
59 provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews necessary for
60 the maintenance and improvement of the indoor air quality of its
61 facilities; shall adopt and implement a green cleaning program,
62 pursuant to section 10-231g, that provides for the procurement and use
63 of environmentally preferable cleaning products in school buildings
64 and facilities; on and after July 1, 2011, and triennially thereafter, shall
65 report to the Commissioner of Administrative Services on the
66 condition of its facilities and the action taken to implement its long-
67 term school building program, indoor air quality program and green
68 cleaning program, which report the Commissioner of Administrative
69 Services shall use to prepare a triennial report that said commissioner
70 shall submit in accordance with section 11-4a to the joint standing
71 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
72 relating to education; shall advise the Commissioner of Administrative
73 Services of the relationship between any individual school building
74 project pursuant to chapter 173 and such long-term school building
75 program; shall have the care, maintenance and operation of buildings,
76 lands, apparatus and other property used for school purposes and at
77 all times shall insure all such buildings and all capital equipment
78 contained therein against loss in an amount not less than eighty per
79 cent of replacement cost; shall determine the number, age and
80 qualifications of the pupils to be admitted into each school; shall
81 develop and implement a written plan for minority staff recruitment

82 for purposes of subdivision (3) of section 10-4a; shall employ and
83 dismiss the teachers of the schools of such district subject to the
84 provisions of sections 10-151 and 10-158a, as amended by this act; shall
85 designate the schools which shall be attended by the various children
86 within the school district; shall make such provisions as will enable
87 each child of school age residing in the district to attend some public
88 day school for the period required by law and provide for the
89 transportation of children wherever transportation is reasonable and
90 desirable, and for such purpose may make contracts covering periods
91 of not more than five years; shall offer an alternative school program in
92 accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act; may place in an
93 alternative school program or other suitable educational program a
94 pupil enrolling in school who is nineteen years of age or older and
95 cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age
96 twenty-one; may arrange with the board of education of an adjacent
97 town for the instruction therein of such children as can attend school in
98 such adjacent town more conveniently; shall cause each child five
99 years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a
100 high school graduate and is living in the school district to attend
101 school in accordance with the provisions of section 10-184, and shall
102 perform all acts required of it by the town or necessary to carry into
103 effect the powers and duties imposed by law.

104 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
105 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
106 *1, 2014*):

107 (c) Annually, each local and regional board of education shall
108 submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile
109 report for each school and alternative school program, as defined in
110 section 1 of this act, under its jurisdiction and for the school district as
111 a whole. The superintendent of each local and regional school district
112 shall present the profile report at the next regularly scheduled public
113 meeting of the board of education after each November first. The
114 profile report shall provide information on measures of (1) student

115 needs, (2) school resources, including technological resources and
116 utilization of such resources and infrastructure, (3) student and school
117 performance, including truancy, (4) the number of students enrolled in
118 an adult high school credit diploma program, pursuant to section 10-
119 69, as amended by this act, operated by a local or regional board of
120 education or a regional educational service center, (5) equitable
121 allocation of resources among its schools, (6) reduction of racial, ethnic
122 and economic isolation, and (7) special education. For purposes of this
123 subsection, measures of special education include (A) special
124 education identification rates by disability, (B) rates at which special
125 education students are exempted from mastery testing pursuant to
126 section 10-14q, (C) expenditures for special education, including such
127 expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures, (D) achievement
128 data for special education students, (E) rates at which students
129 identified as requiring special education are no longer identified as
130 requiring special education, (F) the availability of supplemental
131 educational services for students lacking basic educational skills, (G)
132 the amount of special education student instructional time with
133 nondisabled peers, (H) the number of students placed out-of-district,
134 and (I) the actions taken by the school district to improve special
135 education programs, as indicated by analyses of the local data
136 provided in subparagraphs (A) to (H), inclusive, of this subdivision.
137 The superintendent shall include in the narrative portion of the report
138 information about parental involvement and if the district has taken
139 measures to improve parental involvement, including, but not limited
140 to, employment of methods to engage parents in the planning and
141 improvement of school programs and methods to increase support to
142 parents working at home with their children on learning activities. For
143 purposes of this subsection, measures of truancy include the type of
144 data that is required to be collected by the Department of Education
145 regarding attendance and unexcused absences in order for the
146 department to comply with federal reporting requirements and the
147 actions taken by the local or regional board of education to reduce
148 truancy in the school district. Such truancy data shall be considered a

149 public record for purposes of chapter 14.

150 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-158a of the general statutes is
151 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
152 *1, 2014*):

153 (a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to
154 establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations
155 services, programs or activities, special education services, [or] health
156 care services or an alternative school program, as defined in section 1
157 of this act, to enable such boards to carry out the duties specified in the
158 general statutes. Such arrangements may include the establishment of
159 a committee to supervise such programs, the membership of the
160 committee to be determined by the agreement of the cooperating
161 boards. Such committee shall have the power, in accordance with the
162 terms of the agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on
163 behalf of the school districts which have designated the committee an
164 agent for such purpose any state or federal grants which may be
165 allocated to school districts for specified programs, the supervision of
166 which has been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are
167 payable before implementation of any such program or are to
168 reimburse the committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for
169 transportation provided to a school operated by a cooperative
170 arrangement; (2) receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of
171 such committee by the cooperating school districts, the state or the
172 United States, or given to the committee by individuals or private
173 corporations; (3) hold title to real or personal property in trust, or as
174 otherwise agreed to by the parties, for the appointing boards; (4)
175 employ personnel; (5) enter into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide
176 the specified programs, services and activities. Teachers employed by
177 any such committee shall be subject to the provisions of the general
178 statutes applicable to teachers employed by the board of education of
179 any town or regional school district. For purposes of this section, the
180 term "teacher" shall include each professional employee of a committee
181 below the rank of superintendent who holds a regular certificate

182 issued by the State Board of Education and who is in a position
183 requiring such certification.

184 Sec. 6. Section 10-233d of the general statutes is repealed and the
185 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

186 (a) (1) Any local or regional board of education, at a meeting at
187 which three or more members of such board are present, or the
188 impartial hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this
189 section, may expel, subject to the provisions of this subsection, any
190 pupil whose conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored
191 activity is violative of a publicized policy of such board or is seriously
192 disruptive of the educational process or endangers persons or property
193 or whose conduct off school grounds is violative of such policy and is
194 seriously disruptive of the educational process, provided a majority of
195 the board members sitting in the expulsion hearing vote to expel and
196 that at least three affirmative votes for expulsion are cast. In making a
197 determination as to whether conduct is seriously disruptive of the
198 educational process, the board of education or impartial hearing board
199 may consider, but such consideration shall not be limited to: (A)
200 Whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school; (B)
201 whether other students from the school were involved or whether
202 there was any gang involvement; (C) whether the conduct involved
203 violence, threats of violence or the unlawful use of a weapon, as
204 defined in section 29-38, and whether any injuries occurred; and (D)
205 whether the conduct involved the use of alcohol.

206 (2) Expulsion proceedings pursuant to this section, except as
207 provided in subsection (i) of this section shall be required whenever
208 there is reason to believe that any pupil (A) on school grounds or at a
209 school-sponsored activity, was in possession of a firearm, as defined in
210 18 USC 921, as amended from time to time, or deadly weapon,
211 dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as defined in section
212 53a-3, (B) off school grounds, did possess such a firearm in violation of
213 section 29-35 or did possess and use such a firearm, instrument or

214 weapon in the commission of a crime under chapter 952, or (C) on or
215 off school grounds, offered for sale or distribution a controlled
216 substance, as defined in subdivision (9) of section 21a-240, whose
217 manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting
218 or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administering
219 is subject to criminal penalties under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278.
220 Such a pupil shall be expelled for one calendar year if the local or
221 regional board of education or impartial hearing board finds that the
222 pupil did so possess or so possess and use, as appropriate, such a
223 firearm, instrument or weapon or did so offer for sale or distribution
224 such a controlled substance, provided the board of education or the
225 hearing board may modify the period of expulsion for a pupil on a
226 case by case basis, and as provided for in subdivision (2) of subsection
227 (c) of this section.

228 (3) Unless an emergency exists, no pupil shall be expelled without a
229 formal hearing held pursuant to sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive,
230 and section 4-181a, provided whenever such pupil is a minor, the
231 notice required by section 4-177 and section 4-180 shall also be given to
232 the parents or guardian of the pupil. If an emergency exists, such
233 hearing shall be held as soon after the expulsion as possible. The notice
234 shall include information concerning legal services provided free of
235 charge or at a reduced rate that are available locally and how to access
236 such services.

237 (b) For purposes of conducting expulsion hearings as required by
238 subsection (a) of this section, any local or regional board of education
239 or any two or more of such boards in cooperation may establish an
240 impartial hearing board of one or more persons. No member of any
241 such board or boards shall be a member of the hearing board. The
242 hearing board shall have the authority to conduct the expulsion
243 hearing and render a final decision in accordance with the provisions
244 of sections 4-176e to 4-180a, inclusive, and section 4-181a.

245 (c) (1) In determining the length of an expulsion and the [nature of

246 the alternative educational opportunity] alternative school program, as
247 defined in section 1 of this act, to be offered under subsection (d) of
248 this section, the local or regional board of education, or the impartial
249 hearing board established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
250 may receive and consider evidence of past disciplinary problems
251 which have led to removal from a classroom, suspension or expulsion
252 of such pupil.

253 (2) For any pupil expelled for the first time pursuant to this section
254 and who has never been suspended pursuant to section 10-233c, the
255 local or regional board of education may shorten the length of or waive
256 the expulsion period if the pupil successfully completes a board-
257 specified program and meets any other conditions required by the
258 board. Such board-specified program shall not require the pupil or the
259 parent or guardian of the pupil to pay for participation in the program.

260 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-
261 220, as amended by this act, local and regional boards of education
262 shall only be required to offer an alternative [educational opportunity]
263 school program in accordance with this section. Any pupil under
264 sixteen years of age who is expelled shall be offered [an alternative
265 educational opportunity] enrollment in an alternative school program
266 during the period of expulsion, provided any parent or guardian of
267 such pupil who does not choose to have his or her child enrolled in an
268 alternative [educational] school program shall not be subject to the
269 provisions of section 10-184. Any pupil expelled for the first time who
270 is between the ages of sixteen and eighteen and who wishes to
271 continue his or her education shall be offered [an alternative
272 educational opportunity] enrollment in an alternative school program
273 if he or she complies with conditions established by his or her local or
274 regional board of education. Such alternative [educational
275 opportunity] school program may include, but shall not be limited to,
276 the placement of a pupil who is at least seventeen years of age in an
277 adult education program pursuant to section 10-69, as amended by this
278 act. Any pupil participating in an adult education program during a

279 period of expulsion shall not be required to withdraw from school
280 under section 10-184. A local or regional board of education shall count
281 the expulsion of a pupil when he or she was under sixteen years of age
282 for purposes of determining whether an [alternative educational
283 opportunity] enrollment in an alternative school program is required
284 for such pupil when he or she is between the ages of sixteen and
285 eighteen. A local or regional board of education may offer [an
286 alternative educational opportunity] enrollment in an alternative
287 school program to a pupil for whom such alternative [educational
288 opportunity] school program is not required pursuant to this section.

289 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section
290 concerning the provision of an alternative [educational opportunity]
291 school program for pupils between the ages of sixteen and eighteen,
292 local and regional boards of education shall not be required to offer
293 such alternative school program to any pupil between the ages of
294 sixteen and eighteen who is expelled because of conduct which
295 endangers persons if it is determined at the expulsion hearing that the
296 conduct for which the pupil is expelled involved (1) possession of a
297 firearm, as defined in 18 USC 921, as amended from time to time, or
298 deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or martial arts weapon, as
299 defined in section 53a-3, on school property or at a school-sponsored
300 activity, or (2) offering for sale or distribution on school property or at
301 a school-sponsored activity a controlled substance, as defined in
302 subdivision (9) of section 21a-240, whose manufacture, distribution,
303 sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with the
304 intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administration is subject to
305 criminal penalties under sections 21a-277 and 21a-278. If a pupil is
306 expelled pursuant to this section for possession of a firearm or deadly
307 weapon the board of education shall report the violation to the local
308 police department or in the case of a student enrolled in a technical
309 high school to the state police. If a pupil is expelled pursuant to this
310 section for the sale or distribution of such a controlled substance, the
311 board of education shall refer the pupil to an appropriate state or local

312 agency for rehabilitation, intervention or job training, or any
313 combination thereof, and inform the agency of its action. Whenever a
314 local or regional board of education notifies a pupil between the ages
315 of sixteen and eighteen or the parents or guardian of such pupil that an
316 expulsion hearing will be held, the notification shall include a
317 statement that the board of education is not required to offer [an
318 alternative educational opportunity] enrollment in an alternative
319 school program to any pupil who is found to have engaged in the
320 conduct described in this subsection.

321 (f) (1) Whenever a pupil is expelled pursuant to the provisions of
322 this section, notice of the expulsion and the conduct for which the
323 pupil was expelled shall be included on the pupil's cumulative
324 educational record. Such notice, except for notice of an expulsion
325 based on possession of a firearm or deadly weapon as described in
326 subsection (a) of this section, shall be expunged from the cumulative
327 educational record by the local or regional board of education if a
328 pupil graduates from high school, except as provided for in
329 subdivision (2) of this subsection.

330 (2) In the case of a pupil for which the length of the expulsion
331 period is shortened or the expulsion period is waived pursuant to
332 subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section, such notice shall be
333 expunged from the cumulative educational record by the local or
334 regional board of education (A) if the pupil graduates from high
335 school, or (B) if the board so chooses, at the time the pupil completes
336 the board-specified program and meets any other conditions required
337 by the board pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this
338 section, whichever is earlier.

339 (g) A local or regional board of education may adopt the decision of
340 a pupil expulsion hearing conducted by another school district
341 provided such local or regional board of education or impartial
342 hearing board shall hold a hearing pursuant to the provisions of
343 subsection (a) of this section which shall be limited to a determination

344 of whether the conduct which was the basis for the expulsion would
345 also warrant expulsion under the policies of such board. The pupil
346 shall be excluded from school pending such hearing. The excluded
347 student shall be offered [an alternative educational opportunity]
348 enrollment in an alternative school program in accordance with the
349 provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of this section.

350 (h) Whenever a pupil against whom an expulsion hearing is
351 pending withdraws from school after notification of such hearing but
352 before the hearing is completed and a decision rendered pursuant to
353 this section, (1) notice of the pending expulsion hearing shall be
354 included on the pupil's cumulative educational record, and (2) the
355 local or regional board of education or impartial hearing board shall
356 complete the expulsion hearing and render a decision. If such pupil
357 enrolls in school in another school district, such pupil shall not be
358 excluded from school in the other district pending completion of the
359 expulsion hearing pursuant to this subsection unless an emergency
360 exists, provided nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of
361 the local or regional board of education for such district to suspend the
362 pupil or to conduct its own expulsion hearing in accordance with this
363 section.

364 (i) Prior to conducting an expulsion hearing for a child requiring
365 special education and related services described in subparagraph (A)
366 of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, a planning and placement team
367 shall convene to determine whether the misconduct was caused by the
368 child's disability. If it is determined that the misconduct was caused by
369 the child's disability, the child shall not be expelled. The planning and
370 placement team shall reevaluate the child for the purpose of modifying
371 the child's individualized education program to address the
372 misconduct and to ensure the safety of other children and staff in the
373 school. If it is determined that the misconduct was not caused by the
374 child's disability, the child may be expelled in accordance with the
375 provisions of this section applicable to children who do not require
376 special education and related services. Notwithstanding the provisions

377 of subsections (d) and (e) of this section, whenever a child requiring
378 such special education and related services is expelled, [an alternative
379 educational opportunity] enrollment in an alternative school program,
380 consistent with such child's educational needs, shall be provided
381 during the period of expulsion.

382 (j) An expelled pupil may apply for early readmission to school.
383 Except as provided in this subsection, such readmission shall be at the
384 discretion of the local or regional board of education. The board of
385 education may delegate authority for readmission decisions to the
386 superintendent of schools for the school district. If the board delegates
387 such authority, readmission shall be at the discretion of the
388 superintendent. Readmission decisions shall not be subject to appeal to
389 Superior Court. The board or superintendent, as appropriate, may
390 condition such readmission on specified criteria.

391 (k) Local and regional boards of education shall submit to the
392 Commissioner of Education such information on expulsions for the
393 possession of weapons as required for purposes of the Gun-Free
394 Schools Act of 1994, 20 USC 8921 et seq., as amended from time to
395 time.

396 (l) (1) Any student who commits an expellable offense and is
397 subsequently committed to a juvenile detention center, the Connecticut
398 Juvenile Training School or any other residential placement for such
399 offense may be expelled by a local or regional board of education in
400 accordance with the provisions of this section. The period of expulsion
401 shall run concurrently with the period of commitment to a juvenile
402 detention center, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other
403 residential placement.

404 (2) If a student who committed an expellable offense seeks to return
405 to a school district after having been in a juvenile detention center, the
406 Connecticut Juvenile Training School or any other residential
407 placement and such student has not been expelled by the local or

408 regional board of education for such offense under subdivision (1) of
409 this subsection, the local or regional board of education for the school
410 district to which the student is returning shall allow such student to
411 return and may not expel the student for additional time for such
412 offense.

413 Sec. 7. Subsection (b) of section 10-19m of the general statutes is
414 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
415 *1, 2014*):

416 (b) A youth service bureau established pursuant to subsection (a) of
417 this section may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the
418 following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent
419 training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment
420 counseling; (4) alternative school programs, as defined in section 1 of
421 this act, and special educational opportunities; (5) recreational and
422 youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to insure
423 participation and planning by the entire community for the
424 development of regional and community-based youth services; (7)
425 preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide,
426 violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop
427 positive youth involvement. Such services shall be designed to meet
428 the needs of youths by the diversion of troubled youths from the
429 justice system as well as by the provision of opportunities for all
430 youths to function as responsible members of their communities.

431 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the 2014 supplement to the
432 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
433 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

434 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and
435 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation
436 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through
437 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,
438 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational

439 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board
440 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or
441 secondary school. No person enrolled in a full-time program of study
442 in any local or regional school district may enroll in an adult education
443 activity unless (1) such person receives the approval of the school
444 principal of the school in which such person is enrolled in such full-
445 time program, or (2) such person is enrolled in an adult education
446 activity as part of an alternative [educational opportunity] school
447 program, as defined in section 1 of this act, during a period of
448 expulsion, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-233d, as
449 amended by this act. Instruction: (A) Shall be provided in
450 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with
451 limited English proficiency, and elementary and secondary school
452 completion programs or classes; (B) may be provided in (i) any subject
453 provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such school
454 district, including vocational education, (ii) adult literacy, (iii)
455 parenting skills, and (iv) any other subject or activity; and (C) may
456 include college preparatory classes, for which the local or regional
457 board of education may charge a fee, for adults who (i) have obtained
458 a high school diploma or its equivalent, and (ii) require postsecondary
459 developmental education that will enable such adults to enroll directly
460 in a program of higher learning, as defined in section 10a-34, at an
461 institution of higher education upon completion of such classes.

462 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 10-4p of the general statutes is
463 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
464 *1, 2014*):

465 (b) Prior to developing the plan, the State Board of Education shall
466 conduct a state-wide assessment of the disparities among local and
467 regional school districts and make comparisons to relevant national
468 standards or regional accreditation standards, in the areas of: (1)
469 Resources, including educational materials, supplies, equipment,
470 textbooks, library materials, facilities and expenditures by category
471 and in total; (2) staff, including the education and experience of

472 teachers, staff-student ratios, the racial and ethnic characteristics of
473 staff, minority staff recruitment and a comparison of the racial
474 diversity of school staffs to the racial diversity of the region where the
475 school is located; (3) program and curriculum, including course
476 offerings, requirements, enrollments in advanced, special and
477 compensatory education, programs and services to students with
478 limited English proficiency and an analysis of such programs and
479 services in terms of the recommendations of the bilingual education
480 task force, policies on student assignment and promotion,
481 extracurricular activities and student participation, goals and
482 objectives and content and performance standards, opportunities for
483 summer school, school-to-career transition, alternative school
484 programs, as defined in section 1 of this act, and parent-student choice
485 of school or program; (4) student achievement, including the effect of
486 social promotional policies on student achievement, state and national
487 assessments, dropout rates, attendance, graduation follow-up data,
488 artistic, athletic and community service accomplishments, other
489 documentation of student success, and success in reducing the racial,
490 ethnic and economic isolation of students; and (5) community
491 involvement, including parent and family contact with the school and
492 teachers, business partnerships, joint programs with community
493 agencies, town-wide preschool coordination, opportunities for adult
494 basic education and parenting education.

495 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 10-263c of the general statutes is
496 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
497 *1, 2014*):

498 (b) A transitional school district grant shall be payable to the local
499 board of education for the school district. The local board shall use the
500 funds for any of the following: (1) The creation or expansion of
501 programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2) an alternative
502 [and] school program, as defined in section 1 of this act, or transitional
503 programs for students having difficulty succeeding in traditional
504 educational programs, (3) academic enrichment, tutorial and recreation

505 programs or activities in school buildings during nonschool hours and
506 during the summer, (4) development or expansion of extended-day
507 kindergarten programs, (5) development or expansion of early reading
508 intervention programs, including summer and after-school programs,
509 (6) enhancement of the use of technology to support instruction or
510 improve parent and teacher communication, (7) initiatives to
511 strengthen parent involvement in the education of children, and parent
512 and other community involvement in school and school district
513 programs, activities and educational policies, which may be in
514 accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, or (8) for purposes of
515 obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools from the
516 New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Each such board of
517 education shall use at least twenty per cent of its grant for early
518 reading intervention programs. Each such board of education shall use
519 its grant to supplement existing programs or create new programs. If
520 the State Board of Education finds that any such grant is being used for
521 other purposes or is being used to decrease the local share of support
522 for schools, it may require repayment of such grant to the state.

523 Sec. 11. Subsection (b) of section 10-266q of the general statutes is
524 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
525 *1, 2014*):

526 (b) A priority school district grant shall be payable to the local board
527 of education for the school districts described in section 10-266p, which
528 shall use the funds for any of the following: (1) The creation or
529 expansion of programs or activities related to dropout prevention, (2)
530 an alternative [and] school program, as defined in section 1 of this act,
531 or transitional programs for students having difficulty succeeding in
532 traditional educational programs, (3) academic enrichment, tutorial
533 and recreation programs or activities in school buildings during
534 nonschool hours and during the summer, (4) development or
535 expansion of extended-day kindergarten programs, (5) development or
536 expansion of early reading intervention programs, including summer
537 and after-school programs, (6) enhancement of the use of technology to

538 support instruction or improve parent and teacher communication, (7)
539 initiatives to strengthen parent involvement in the education of
540 children, and parent and other community involvement in school and
541 school district programs, activities and educational policies, which
542 may be in accordance with the provisions of section 10-4g, or (8) for
543 purposes of obtaining accreditation for elementary and middle schools
544 from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Each such
545 board of education shall use at least twenty per cent of its grant for
546 early reading intervention programs. Each such board of education
547 shall use its grant to supplement existing programs or create new
548 programs. If the State Board of Education finds that any such grant is
549 being used for other purposes or is being used to decrease the local
550 share of support for schools, it may require repayment of such grant to
551 the state.

552 Sec. 12. Subsection (b) of section 10-94e of the general statutes is
553 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
554 *1, 2014*):

555 (b) For purposes of this section, "career education program" means
556 an alternative school program, as defined in section 1 of this act, or
557 school without walls program designed to allow students to develop
558 career awareness and orientation through exploration of their career
559 interests. Such exploration includes, but is not limited to, permitting
560 students to gain actual experience by working, without compensation
561 but for school credit, in government agencies or in business or
562 industrial establishments.

563 Sec. 13. Section 10-220d of the general statutes is repealed and the
564 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

565 Each local and regional board of education shall provide full access
566 to technical high schools, regional agricultural science and technology
567 education centers, interdistrict magnet schools, charter schools and
568 interdistrict student attendance programs for the recruitment of

569 students attending the schools under the board's jurisdiction, provided
570 such recruitment is not for the purpose of interscholastic athletic
571 competition. Each local and regional board of education shall provide
572 information relating to technical high schools, regional agricultural
573 science and technology education centers, interdistrict magnet schools,
574 charter schools, alternative [high schools] school programs, as defined
575 in section 1 of this act, and interdistrict student attendance programs
576 on the board's web site. Each local and regional board of education
577 shall inform students and parents of students in middle and high
578 schools within such board's jurisdiction of the availability of (1)
579 vocational, technical and technological education and training at
580 technical high schools, and (2) agricultural science and technology
581 education at regional agricultural science and technology education
582 centers.

583 Sec. 14. Subsection (c) of section 10-223h of the 2014 supplement to
584 the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
585 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

586 (c) Following the establishment of a turnaround committee, the
587 Department of Education shall conduct, in consultation with the local
588 or regional board of education for a school selected to participate in the
589 commissioner's network of schools, the school governance council for
590 such school and such turnaround committee, an operations and
591 instructional audit, as described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2)
592 of subsection (e) of section 10-223e, for such school. Such operations
593 and instructional audit shall be conducted pursuant to guidelines
594 issued by the department and shall determine the extent to which the
595 school (1) has established a strong family and community connection
596 to the school; (2) has a positive school environment, as evidenced by a
597 culture of high expectations, a safe and orderly workplace, and that
598 address other nonacademic factors that impact student achievement,
599 such as students' social, emotional, arts, cultural, recreational and
600 health needs; (3) has effective leadership, as evidenced by the school
601 principal's performance appraisals, track record in improving student

602 achievement, ability to lead turnaround efforts, and managerial skills
603 and authority in the areas of scheduling, staff management,
604 curriculum implementation and budgeting; (4) has effective teachers
605 and support staff as evidenced by performance evaluations, policies to
606 retain staff determined to be effective and who have the ability to be
607 successful in the turnaround effort, policies to prevent ineffective
608 teachers from transferring to the schools, and job-embedded, ongoing
609 professional development informed by the teacher evaluation and
610 support programs that are tied to teacher and student needs; (5) uses
611 time effectively as evidenced by the redesign of the school day, week,
612 or year to include additional time for student learning and teacher
613 collaboration; (6) has a curriculum and instructional program that is
614 based on student needs, is research-based, rigorous and aligned with
615 state academic content standards, and serves all children, including
616 students at every achievement level; and (7) uses evidence to inform
617 decision-making and for continuous improvement, including by
618 providing time for collaboration on the use of data. Such operations
619 and instructional audit shall be informed by an inventory of the
620 following: (A) Before and after school programs, (B) any school-based
621 health centers, family resource centers or other community services
622 offered at the school, including, but not limited to, social services,
623 mental health services and parenting support programs, (C) whether
624 scientific research-based interventions are being fully implemented at
625 the school, (D) resources for scientific research-based interventions
626 during the school year and summer school programs, (E) resources for
627 gifted and talented students, (F) the length of the school day and the
628 school year, (G) summer school programs, (H) [the alternative high
629 school, if any] an alternative school program, as defined in section 1 of
630 this act, available to students at the school, (I) the number of teachers
631 employed at the school and the number of teachers who have left the
632 school in each of the previous three school years, (J) student mobility,
633 including the number of students who have been enrolled in and left
634 the school, (K) the number of students whose primary language is not
635 English, (L) the number of students receiving special education

636 services, (M) the number of truants, (N) the number of students who
 637 are eligible for free or reduced price lunches, (O) the number of
 638 students who are eligible for HUSKY Plan, Part A, (P) the curricula
 639 used at the school, (Q) the reading curricula and programs for
 640 kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, if any, at the school, (R) arts and
 641 music programs offered at the school, (S) physical education programs
 642 offered and periods for recess or physical activity, (T) the number of
 643 school psychologists at the school and the ratio of school psychologists
 644 to students at the school, (U) the number of social workers at the
 645 school and the ratio of social workers to students at the school, (V) the
 646 teacher and administrator performance evaluation program, including
 647 the frequency of performance evaluations, how such evaluations are
 648 conducted and by whom, the standards for performance ratings and
 649 follow-up and remediation plans and the aggregate results of teacher
 650 performance evaluation ratings conducted pursuant to section 10-151b
 651 and any other available measures of teacher effectiveness, (W)
 652 professional development activities and programs, (X) teacher and
 653 student access to technology inside and outside of the classroom, (Y)
 654 student access to and enrollment in mastery test preparation programs,
 655 (Z) the availability of textbooks, learning materials and other supplies,
 656 (AA) student demographics, including race, gender and ethnicity, (BB)
 657 chronic absenteeism, and (CC) preexisting school improvement plans,
 658 for the purpose of (i) determining why such school improvement plans
 659 have not improved student academic performance, and (ii) identifying
 660 governance, legal, operational, staffing or resource constraints that
 661 contributed to the lack of student academic performance at such school
 662 and should be addressed, modified or removed for such school to
 663 improve student academic performance.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10-220(a)

Sec. 4	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-220(c)
Sec. 5	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-158a(a)
Sec. 6	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-233d
Sec. 7	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-19m(b)
Sec. 8	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-69(a)
Sec. 9	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-4p(b)
Sec. 10	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-263c(b)
Sec. 11	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-266q(b)
Sec. 12	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-94e(b)
Sec. 13	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-220d
Sec. 14	<u>July 1, 2014</u>	10-223h(c)

Statement of Purpose:

To define and establish the criteria by which boards of education are to offer alternative school programs.

[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.]