



House of Representatives

File No. 735

General Assembly

February Session, 2014

(Reprint of File No. 506)

Substitute House Bill No. 5567
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 1, 2014

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE
SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to conduct a study of alternative school programs offered by local and
3 regional boards of education. Such study shall include (1) an
4 examination of alternative school programs, including, but not limited
5 to, (A) enrollment and discharge criteria, including methods to obtain
6 parental consent, (B) enrollment data by gender, race and ethnicity, (C)
7 the curriculum offered, (D) the length of the school day and school
8 year, (E) attendance rates, (F) truancy rates, (G) graduation rates, and
9 (H) student academic performance, (2) an evaluation of each such
10 alternative school program that measures the effectiveness of such
11 alternative school program in meeting the needs of students enrolled
12 in such alternative school program, and (3) a statement on the degree
13 to which each such alternative school program complies with sections
14 10-15, 10-16 and 10-16b of the general statutes. Each local or regional
15 board of education that offers an alternative school program shall
16 provide the department all information relating to such alternative

17 school program for purposes of such study. For purposes of this
18 section, "alternative school program" includes, but is not limited to, (A)
19 alternative school programs, pursuant to section 10-220 of the general
20 statutes, (B) alternative educational opportunities, pursuant to sections
21 10-19m, 10-69 and 10-233d of the general statutes, (C) alternative
22 programs, pursuant to sections 10-4p, 10-263c and 10-266q of the
23 general statutes, (D) alternative schools, pursuant to section 10-94e of
24 the general statutes, (E) alternative high schools, pursuant to sections
25 10-220d and 10-223h of the general statutes, and (F) alternative schools
26 or programs operated by local or regional boards of education in
27 which struggling or at-risk students are educated separately from the
28 students enrolled in the general education program provided by such
29 boards of education.

30 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

31 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
32 one of whom is a representative of Connecticut Voices for Children
33 and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of
34 Alternative Schools and Programs;

35 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one
36 of whom is an administrator of an alternative school program for a
37 school district that is in a town with a population less than twenty
38 thousand and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
39 Association of Boards of Education;

40 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
41 Representatives who is a representative of the Connecticut Juvenile
42 Justice Alliance;

43 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who is an
44 administrator of an alternative school program for a school district that
45 is in a town with a population equal to or greater than twenty
46 thousand, but less than or equal to fifty thousand;

47 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

48 Representatives who is a representative of the Center for Children's
49 Advocacy;

50 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who is an
51 administrator of an alternative school program for a school district that
52 is in a town with a population greater than fifty thousand;

53 (7) One appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
54 Caucus of the General Assembly who is a member of the Black and
55 Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly;

56 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

57 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (9) of
58 subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General
59 Assembly.

60 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
61 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
62 filled by the appointing authority.

63 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
64 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
65 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
66 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
67 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

68 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
69 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
70 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

71 (g) Not later than January 1, 2015, the task force shall submit a
72 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
73 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
74 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
75 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
76 that it submits such report or January 1, 2015, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than 1,000	None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 15 to those agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

House "A" strikes the language in the underlying bill and results in the aforementioned fiscal impact.

The Out Years

There is no ongoing fiscal impact because the task force terminates in FY 15.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5567 (as amended by House "A")

***AN ACT CONCERNING A DEFINITION OF AND GUIDELINES FOR
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PROGRAMS.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/24/2014)