



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2014

LCO No. 4782

SB0042504782SD0

Offered by:

SEN. STILLMAN, 20th Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.
SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.
REP. ACKERT, 8th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 425

File No. 459

Cal. No. 293

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER."

1 In line 12, after "Education" insert ", with the advice and consent of
2 both houses of the General Assembly"

3 Strike section 2 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:

4 "Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The purposes of the State
5 Education Resource Center, established pursuant to section 1 of this
6 act, shall be to assist the State Board of Education in the provision of
7 programs and activities that will promote educational equity and
8 excellence. Such activities shall be limited to: Training, technical
9 assistance and professional development for local and regional boards
10 of education, school leaders, teachers, families and community
11 partners in the form of seminars, publications, site visits, on-line
12 content and other appropriate means; publication of technical

13 materials; research and evaluation; writing, managing, administering
14 and coordinating grants for the purposes described in this subsection;
15 and any other related activities directly related to the purposes
16 described in this subsection. The center may support programs and
17 activities concerning early childhood education, improving school and
18 district academic performance, and closing academic achievement
19 gaps between socio-economic subgroups, and other related programs
20 and activities. For such purposes the center is authorized and
21 empowered to:

22 (1) Have perpetual succession as a body politic and corporate and to
23 adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its
24 business;

25 (2) Adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

26 (3) Maintain an office at such place or places as it may designate;

27 (4) Sue and be sued in its own name and plead and be impleaded;

28 (5) (A) Employ such assistants, agents and other employees as may
29 be necessary or desirable who shall not be employees, as defined in
30 subsection (b) of section 5-270 of the general statutes; (B) establish all
31 necessary or appropriate personnel practices and policies, including
32 those relating to hiring, promotion, compensation, retirement and
33 collective bargaining, which need not be in accordance with chapter 68
34 of the general statutes, and the center shall not be an employer as
35 defined in subsection (a) of section 5-270 of the general statutes; and
36 (C) engage consultants, attorneys and appraisers as may be necessary
37 or desirable to carry out its purposes in accordance with this section
38 and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act;

39 (6) Receive and accept aid or contributions from any source of
40 money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and
41 applied to carry out the purposes of this section and sections 1, 3 and 4
42 of this act, subject to such conditions upon which such grants and
43 contributions may be made, including, but not limited to, gifts or

44 grants from any department, agency or instrumentality of the United
45 States or this state for any purpose consistent with this section and
46 sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act;

47 (7) Make and enter into all contracts and agreements necessary or
48 incidental to the performance of its duties and the execution of its
49 powers under this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, including
50 contracts and agreements for such professional services as the center
51 deems necessary, including, but not limited to, those services provided
52 by financial consultants, underwriters and technical specialists;

53 (8) Acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and dispose of
54 personal property, and lease, convey or deal in or enter into
55 agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary or
56 incidental to the carrying out of these purposes;

57 (9) Invest in, acquire, lease, purchase, own, manage, hold and
58 dispose of real property and lease, convey or deal in or enter into
59 agreements with respect to such property on any terms necessary or
60 incidental to carrying out the purposes of this section and sections 1, 3
61 and 4 of this act, provided such transactions shall be subject to
62 approval, review or regulation by any state agency pursuant to title 4b
63 of the general statutes or any other provision of the general statutes;

64 (10) Procure insurance against any liability or loss in connection
65 with its property and other assets, in such amounts and from such
66 insurers as it deems desirable and to procure insurance for employees;

67 (11) Account for and audit funds of the center and funds of any
68 recipients of funds from the center;

69 (12) Hold patents, copyrights, trademarks, marketing rights,
70 licenses, or any other evidences of protection or exclusivity as to any
71 products as defined in this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act,
72 issued under the laws of the United States or any state or any nation;

73 (13) Establish advisory committees to assist in accomplishing its

74 duties under this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, which may
75 include one or more members of the board of directors and persons
76 other than members; and

77 (14) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the
78 purposes of this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this act, and the
79 powers expressly granted by this section and sections 1, 3 and 4 of this
80 act.

81 (b) The State Education Resource Center shall establish a
82 Connecticut School Reform Resource Center either within the State
83 Education Resource Center or by contract through a regional
84 educational service center, established pursuant to section 10-66a of
85 the general statutes. The Connecticut School Reform Resource Center
86 shall operate year-round and shall focus on serving the needs of all
87 public schools. The Connecticut School Reform Resource Center shall
88 (1) publish and distribute reports on the most effective practices for
89 improving student achievement by successful schools; (2) provide a
90 program of professional development activities for (A) school leaders,
91 including curriculum coordinators, principals, superintendents and
92 board of education members, and (B) teachers to educate students that
93 includes research-based child development and reading instruction
94 tools and practices; (3) provide information on successful models for
95 evaluating student performance and managing student data; (4)
96 develop strategies for assisting such students who are in danger of
97 failing; (5) develop culturally-relevant methods for educating students
98 whose primary language is not English; and (6) provide other
99 programs and materials to assist in the improvement of public schools.

100 (c) The State Education Resource Center shall be subject to (1) rules,
101 regulations and restrictions on purchasing, procurement, personal
102 service agreements and the disposition of assets generally applicable to
103 Connecticut state agencies, including those contained in titles 4, 4a and
104 4b of the general statutes, section 4e-19 of the general statutes, and (2)
105 audit by the Auditors of Public Accounts under section 2-90 of the
106 general statutes."

107 Strike section 14 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu
108 thereof:

109 "Sec. 14. Subdivision (20) of section 10-183b of the general statutes is
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
111 *passage*):

112 (20) "Public school" means any day school conducted within or
113 without this state under the orders and superintendence of a duly
114 elected school committee, a board of education, the State Board of
115 Education, the board of governors or any of its constituent units, the E.
116 O. Smith School, the Children's Center and its successors, the State
117 Education Resource Center established pursuant to section 10-4q of the
118 2014 supplement to the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to
119 January 1, 2013, the State Education Resource Center established
120 pursuant to section 1 of this act, joint activities of boards of education
121 authorized by subsection (b) of section 10-158a and any institution
122 supported by the state at which teachers are employed or any
123 incorporated secondary school not under the orders and
124 superintendence of a duly elected school committee or board of
125 education but located in a town not maintaining a high school and
126 providing free tuition to pupils of the town in which it is located, and
127 which has been approved by the State Board of Education under the
128 provisions of part II of chapter 164, provided that such institution or
129 such secondary school is classified as a public school by the retirement
130 board."

131 In line 437, after "2013," insert "or the State Education Resource
132 Center established pursuant to section 1 of this act,"