



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 482

January Session, 2015

House Bill No. 6978

House of Representatives, April 7, 2015

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE STATE-WIDE INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL PLAN.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-264l of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

4 (b) (1) Applications for interdistrict magnet school program
5 operating grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be submitted
6 annually to the Commissioner of Education at such time and in such
7 manner as the commissioner prescribes, except that on and after July 1,
8 2009, applications for such operating grants for new interdistrict
9 magnet schools, other than those that the commissioner determines
10 will assist the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and
11 order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or
12 the goals of the 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v.
13 William A. O'Neill, et al., shall not be accepted until the commissioner

14 develops a comprehensive state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan.
15 The commissioner shall submit such comprehensive state-wide
16 interdistrict magnet school plan on or before [January 1, 2011] October
17 1, 2016, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
18 having cognizance of matters relating to education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-2641(b)(1)

ED *Joint Favorable*

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:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and submit a state-wide interdistrict magnet school plan, on or before October 1, 2016, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact as the State Department of Education has the expertise and resources available to conduct the study.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6978*****AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A COMPREHENSIVE STATE-WIDE INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL PLAN.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill sets a new deadline by which the education commissioner must develop and submit to the Education Committee a comprehensive statewide plan for interdistrict magnet schools. Current law required that the plan be submitted by January 1, 2011. The bill requires that it be submitted by October 1, 2016.

By law, and unchanged by the bill, the commissioner cannot accept applications to establish new magnet schools outside the *Sheff* region until this plan is developed. Applications for new magnet schools within the *Sheff* region are not subject to this moratorium.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Sheff Region***

This region is named after a landmark public school desegregation court case, *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996). It encompasses Hartford and its surrounding towns: Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Manchester, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

Settlement agreements subsequent to the *Sheff* decision rely on voluntary desegregation methods with towns in the *Sheff* region to reduce isolation for Hartford resident minority students.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/18/2015)