



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 972

LCO No. 3601



Referred to Committee on PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

Introduced by:
(PRI)

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFFING.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) For the school year
2 commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, the
3 Department of Education shall annually collect from local and regional
4 boards of education information relating to all paraprofessionals
5 employed by such board who provide instructional support, as
6 described in the Title I Paraprofessionals Non-regulatory Guidance
7 issued by the United States Department of Education, as amended
8 from time to time, and whose positions are funded under Title I of the
9 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq. The
10 department shall summarize and post such information on its Internet
11 web site. Such summarized and posted information shall include, at a
12 minimum, (1) the number of such paraprofessionals who satisfy the
13 qualifications to provide instructional support under said Elementary
14 and Secondary Education Act, (2) the number of such

15 paraprofessionals who do not satisfy the qualifications to provide
16 instructional support under said Elementary and Secondary Education
17 Act, (3) a list of the school districts that employ paraprofessionals who
18 do not satisfy the qualifications to provide instructional support under
19 said Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and (4) the types of
20 actions taken by school districts to employ qualified paraprofessionals
21 or to assist paraprofessionals in becoming qualified.

22 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) For the school year commencing
23 July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional
24 board of education shall annually provide training to all
25 paraprofessionals employed by such board. Such training shall (1)
26 provide information necessary to instruct each paraprofessional on the
27 duties and responsibilities that such paraprofessional is expected to
28 perform, (2) be consistent with the specific needs of the student or
29 students to whom the paraprofessional will be assigned, and (3) be
30 provided before the start of the school year by the immediate
31 supervisor of the paraprofessional and with pay. In the case of a
32 paraprofessional who is hired by a local or regional board of education
33 after the start of the school year or who has been reassigned during the
34 school year, such training shall be provided to such paraprofessional
35 before such paraprofessional's assignment or reassignment begins.

36 Sec. 3. Section 10-155k of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

38 (a) On and after July 1, 2013, the Commissioner of Education shall
39 establish a School Paraprofessional Advisory Council consisting of (1)
40 one school paraprofessional from each state-wide bargaining
41 representative organization that represents school paraprofessionals
42 with instructional responsibilities, (2) one representative from each of
43 the exclusive bargaining units for certified employees, chosen
44 pursuant to section 10-153b, (3) the most recent recipient of the
45 Connecticut Paraprofessional of the Year Award, (4) two
46 representatives from the regional educational service centers,

47 appointed by the Commissioner of Education, [and] (5) a school
48 administrator, appointed by the Connecticut Federation of School
49 Administrators, (6) a school paraprofessional who is not represented
50 by a state-wide bargaining representative organization that represents
51 school paraprofessionals with instructional responsibilities, appointed
52 by the president pro tempore of the Senate, (7) a school
53 paraprofessional who is not represented by a state-wide bargaining
54 representative organization that represents school paraprofessionals
55 with instructional responsibilities, appointed by the speaker of the
56 House of Representatives, (8) the parent or guardian of a student who
57 receives or has recently received instructional support from a school
58 paraprofessional, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, (9) a
59 special education teacher who is responsible for supervising a school
60 paraprofessional, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, (10) a
61 representative of an institution of higher education offering a teacher
62 preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, appointed by the
63 majority leader of the House of Representatives, and (11) the parent or
64 guardian of a student who receives or has recently received
65 instructional support from a school paraprofessional, appointed by the
66 minority leader of the House of Representatives. Members of the
67 council shall serve coterminously and at the pleasure of the appointing
68 authority in accordance with section 4-1a. The council shall elect a
69 chairperson from among its members and the term of such chairperson
70 shall be two years.

71 (b) The council shall meet at least quarterly in a public building and
72 the agendas for each meeting shall be posted on the Internet web site
73 of the Department of Education at least forty-eight hours before the
74 meeting.

75 (c) The council shall [hold quarterly meetings and advise, at least
76 quarterly,] advise the Commissioner of Education, or the
77 commissioner's designee, of the needs for [(A)] (1) professional
78 development and the training of paraprofessionals and the
79 effectiveness of the content and the delivery of existing training for

80 such paraprofessionals, [(B)] (2) appropriate staffing strategies for
81 paraprofessionals, and [(C)] (3) other relevant issues relating to
82 paraprofessionals. The council shall report, annually, in accordance
83 with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to
84 the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the
85 provisions of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
86 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

87 (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
88 year thereafter, the council shall compile and annually update a list of
89 persons responsible for disseminating information to the school
90 paraprofessionals employed in each school district.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-155k

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning school paraprofessional staffing.

[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.]