



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1102

LCO No. 5080



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATORS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-17g of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 Annually, the board of education for each local and regional school
4 district that is required to provide a program of bilingual education,
5 pursuant to section 10-17f, may make application to the State Board of
6 Education and shall thereafter receive a grant in an amount equal to
7 the product obtained by multiplying the total appropriation available
8 for such purpose by the ratio which the number of eligible children in
9 the school district bears to the total number of such eligible children
10 state-wide. The board of education for each local and regional school
11 district receiving funds pursuant to this section shall annually, on or
12 before September first, submit to the State Board of Education a
13 progress report which shall include (1) measures of increased
14 educational opportunities for eligible students, including language
15 support services and language transition support services provided to

16 such students, (2) program evaluation and measures of the
17 effectiveness of its bilingual education and English as a second
18 language programs, including data on students in bilingual education
19 programs and students educated exclusively in English as a second
20 language programs, and (3) certification by the board of education
21 submitting the report that any funds received pursuant to this section
22 have been used for the purposes specified. The State Board of
23 Education shall annually evaluate programs conducted pursuant to
24 section 10-17f. For purposes of this section, measures of the
25 effectiveness of bilingual education and English as a second language
26 programs include mastery examination results, under section 10-14n,
27 and graduation and school dropout rates. Any unexpended funds
28 appropriated to the Department of Education for purposes of this
29 section shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available
30 for expenditures relating to recruitment and training of bilingual
31 educators during the next fiscal year. Notwithstanding the provisions
32 of this section, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009, to June 30,
33 2015, inclusive, the amount of grants payable to local or regional
34 boards of education under this section shall be reduced
35 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
36 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

37 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
39 *1, 2015*):

40 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section and section 10-
41 145b, the following persons shall be eligible for a nonrenewable
42 temporary certificate: (1) A person who has resided in a state other
43 than Connecticut during the year immediately preceding application
44 for certification in Connecticut and meets the requirements for
45 certification, excluding successful completion of the competency
46 examination and subject matter assessment, if such person holds
47 current teacher certification in a state other than Connecticut and has
48 completed at least one year of successful teaching in another state in a

49 public school or a nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state
50 board of education, (2) a person who has graduated from a teacher
51 preparation program at a college or university outside of the state and
52 regionally accredited, and meets the requirements for certification,
53 excluding successful completion of the competency examination and
54 subject matter assessment, and (3) a person hired by a charter school
55 after July first in any school year for a teaching position that school
56 year, provided the person hired after said date could reasonably be
57 expected to complete the requirements prescribed in subparagraphs
58 (B) and (C) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of section 10-145b. The
59 nonrenewable temporary certificate shall be valid for one year from
60 the date it is issued, except the State Board of Education may extend a
61 temporary certificate in the certification endorsement area of bilingual
62 education issued under this subsection for an additional two years to a
63 person who is employed by a local or regional board of education and
64 providing instruction as part of a program of bilingual instruction, as
65 defined in section 10-17e.

66 Sec. 3. Section 10-145h of the general statutes is repealed and the
67 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

68 (a) On and after July 1, [1999] 2015, the State Board of Education
69 shall require an applicant for certification as a bilingual education
70 teacher to demonstrate written competency in English and written and
71 oral competency in the other language of instruction as a condition of
72 certification. [Competency] Written competency in English shall be
73 demonstrated by successful passage of the essential skills test
74 approved by the State Board of Education. [Competency] Written
75 competency in the other language shall be demonstrated on an
76 examination, if available, of comparable difficulty as specified by the
77 Department of Education. If such an examination is not available,
78 competency shall be demonstrated by an appropriate alternative
79 method as specified by the department. Oral competency in the other
80 language shall be demonstrated by an appropriate method specified
81 by the Department of Education.

82 (b) On and after July 1, [2003] 2015, the State Board of Education
83 shall require persons seeking to become (1) elementary level bilingual
84 education teachers to [be certified] meet coursework requirements in
85 elementary education and bilingual education, and (2) secondary level
86 bilingual education teachers to [be certified] meet coursework
87 requirements in both the subject area they will teach and in bilingual
88 education. [Such dual certification requirement may be met by earning
89 a bachelor's degree in one field and meeting the requirements for an
90 endorsement in the other field.] The State Board of Education may
91 issue an endorsement in bilingual education to an applicant who has
92 (A) completed coursework requirements in (i) elementary education
93 and bilingual education or (ii) the subject area they will teach and
94 bilingual education, and (B) successful passage of examination
95 requirements for bilingual education, as approved by the State Board
96 of Education.

97 (c) On and after July 1, 2000, the State Board of Education shall
98 require bilingual education teachers holding provisional educator
99 certificates to meet the requirements of this subsection in order to
100 qualify for a professional educator certificate to teach bilingual
101 education. (1) Such bilingual education teachers who teach on the
102 elementary level shall take fifteen credit hours in bilingual education
103 and fifteen credit hours in language arts, reading and mathematics. (2)
104 Such bilingual education teachers who teach on the middle or
105 secondary level shall take fifteen credit hours in bilingual education
106 and fifteen credit hours in the subject matter that they teach. Such
107 professional educator certificate shall be valid for bilingual education
108 and the grade level and content area of preparation.

109 [(d) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, for the period
110 from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2010, inclusive, the State Board of
111 Education shall require an applicant for certification as a bilingual
112 education teacher to demonstrate competency in English and the other
113 language of instruction as a condition of certification. Competency in
114 English shall be demonstrated by successful passage of the oral

115 proficiency test in English and an essential skills test approved by the
116 State Board of Education. Oral and written competency in the other
117 language shall be demonstrated by passage of an examination, if
118 available, of comparable difficulty as specified by the Department of
119 Education. If such an examination is not available, competency shall be
120 demonstrated by an appropriate alternative method as specified by the
121 department.

122 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, for the period
123 from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2010, inclusive, the State Board of
124 Education shall require persons seeking to become (A) elementary
125 level bilingual education teachers to be certified in (i) bilingual
126 education and achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate
127 State Board of Education approved assessment for elementary
128 education, or (ii) elementary education and have completed six
129 semester hours of credit in English as a second language course work
130 as approved by the State Board of Education, and (B) secondary level
131 bilingual education teachers to be certified in (i) bilingual education
132 and achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the appropriate State Board of
133 Education approved subject area assessment, or (ii) the subject area
134 they will teach and have completed six semester hours of credit in
135 English as a second language course work as approved by the State
136 Board of Education. Such certificates shall be valid for subject-specific
137 bilingual education. Certification in elementary bilingual education
138 shall be valid for grades kindergarten to eight, inclusive, and
139 certification in secondary subject-specific bilingual education shall be
140 valid for grades seven to twelve, inclusive.]

141 Sec. 4. Section 10-145k of the general statutes is repealed and the
142 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

143 (a) The State Board of Education shall, upon the request of a local or
144 regional board of education, issue an international teacher permit in a
145 subject shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, provided the
146 conditions for issuance of such permit pursuant to the provisions of

147 subsections (b) and (c) of this section are met. Such permits shall be
148 issued for one year and may be renewed for a period of up to one year,
149 upon the request of the local or regional board of education, provided
150 the teacher whose permit is to be renewed maintains, at the time of
151 such renewal, a valid J-1 Visa issued by the United States Department
152 of State at the time such permit is renewed.

153 (b) The local or regional board of education requesting the issuance
154 of an international teacher permit shall attest to the existence of a plan
155 for the supervision of the teacher.

156 (c) The teacher shall:

157 (1) Hold a J-1 visa issued by the United States Department of State;

158 (2) Be in the United States to teach (A) in accordance with a
159 memorandum of understanding between Connecticut and the country
160 from which the teacher is entering, or (B) as part of the Exchange
161 Visitor Program administered by the United States Department of
162 State Teacher Exchange Branch;

163 (3) (A) Hold the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, from a regionally
164 accredited institution of higher education, as determined by a foreign
165 credentialing agency recognized by the Commissioner of Education,
166 with a major in or closely related to the certification endorsement area
167 in which the teacher is to teach, [or] (B) hold such a degree without
168 such a major and have successfully completed the teacher assessment
169 for the appropriate subject area, as approved by the State Board of
170 Education, or (C) for persons providing instruction as part of a
171 program of bilingual instruction, as defined in section 10-17e,
172 completed coursework or training prescribed by the State Board of
173 Education;

174 (4) Have completed, in the country from which the teacher is
175 entering, the equivalent of a regionally accredited teacher preparation
176 program; and

177 (5) Have achieved the level of oral proficiency in English as
178 determined by an examination approved by the Commissioner of
179 Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-17g
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-145f(c)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-145h
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10-145k

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the number of bilingual education teachers in the state by providing flexibility in the certification requirements for such teachers.

[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.]