



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 1103***

LCO No. 5247



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For the school year  
2 commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, the  
3 Commissioner of Education shall establish and administer a school  
4 districts of innovation program. Under such program, the  
5 commissioner may waive any provision of title 10 of the general  
6 statutes, or regulations adopted by the State Board of Education  
7 pursuant to said title 10, except that the commissioner shall not waive  
8 any provision of sections 10-14n, 10-15, 10-16, 10-16b, 10-153a to 10-  
9 153t, inclusive, and 10-221a of the general statutes, for any local or  
10 regional board of education that develops creative approaches to  
11 addressing issues and challenges related to the provision of education  
12 in the public schools, including, but not limited to, improving school  
13 climate and reducing school bullying.

14 (b) (1) A local or regional board of education may submit an  
15 application for participating in the program at such time and in such  
16 manner as the commissioner prescribes. Such application shall include,

17 but not be limited to, (A) a plan that provides a description of the  
18 proposed approach to be taken by such local or regional board of  
19 education to address a specific issue or challenge, (B) the proposed  
20 outcome of such approach, (C) methods for assessing the impact of  
21 participating in the program, (D) the inclusion of any community  
22 partners that will be involved in the implementation of such approach,  
23 and (E) the specific statutory or regulatory provisions that such board  
24 is seeking permission to be waived.

25 (2) The commissioner shall review each application for participation  
26 in the program and may approve the plan proposed by a local or  
27 regional board of education and waive the appropriate statutory or  
28 regulatory requirements. Such waiver shall be valid for three years and  
29 may be renewed by the commissioner upon a demonstration of success  
30 by the local or regional board of education.

31 (b) Any local or regional board of education participating in such  
32 program shall partner with a public institution of higher education to  
33 implement the plan and analyze such implementation. Such public  
34 institution of higher education shall provide instruction in best  
35 practices and research-based methodology to assist such local or  
36 regional board of education in the implementation of such plan.

37 (c) Any local or regional board of education participating in the  
38 program shall (1) submit to the department (A) annual progress  
39 reports relating to the implementation of such plan; and (B) a final  
40 report relating to the results of such plan at the conclusion of  
41 participation in the program or prior to an application for renewal of  
42 the waiver, (2) share such results with other local or regional boards of  
43 education, and (3) if such plan is successful, provide instruction and  
44 training to other local and regional boards of education on such plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a school districts of innovation program.

*[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.]*