



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 8104



Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.
REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.
SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.
REP. LAVIELLE, 143rd Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 1103

File No. 621

Cal. No. 335

"AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than September
4 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Education shall develop a process to
5 invite innovation waiver requests from local and regional boards of
6 education for waivers of the provisions of title 10 of the general
7 statutes over which the State Board of Education has jurisdiction, or
8 any regulation adopted by the state board, except a local or regional
9 board of education shall not request or be granted a waiver of the
10 provisions of chapters 169 and 172 of the general statutes, part I of
11 chapter 166 of the general statutes, sections 10-14n to 10-14w, inclusive,
12 10-15, 10-16, 10-16b, 10-76d, 10-186, 10-221a, 10-223e, 10-226a to 10-
13 226h, inclusive, 10-233c and 10-281 of the general statutes or any

14 requirement of federal law. Any such innovation waiver request shall
15 be made in a manner and form prescribed by the commissioner and
16 shall demonstrate (1) how the granting of an innovation waiver would
17 stimulate innovation or improve administration of school district
18 operations or student academic performance, (2) that the local or
19 regional board of education can address the intent of the statute or
20 regulation for which an innovation waiver is being sought in a more
21 effective, efficient or economical manner, and (3) how the granting of
22 an innovation waiver would ensure the protection of sound
23 educational practices, the health and safety of students and school
24 personnel, and equal opportunities for learning.

25 (b) The commissioner shall review each innovation waiver request
26 and may recommend approval of up to ten innovation waivers. The
27 commissioner shall submit to the State Board of Education a report
28 that includes the innovation waiver requests for which the
29 commissioner is recommending approval and the goals or benchmarks
30 of success for such requests to the State Board of Education.

31 (c) (1) The State Board of Education shall review the report
32 submitted by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of this
33 section and make a written recommendation for approval or rejection
34 of each innovation waiver request. Such written recommendation shall
35 include an explanation of the reasons why the state board is suggesting
36 approval or rejection of such innovation waiver request. In considering
37 whether to approve or reject an innovation waiver request under this
38 subsection, the state board may (A) recommend approval of such
39 request if the state board determines that such request sufficiently
40 demonstrates (i) how the granting of an innovation waiver would
41 stimulate innovation or improve administration of school district
42 operations or student academic performance, and (ii) that the local or
43 regional board of education submitting such request can address the
44 intent of the statute or regulation for which an innovation waiver is
45 being sought in a more effective, efficient or economical manner, or (B)
46 recommend rejection of an innovation waiver request if such request is

47 not based on sound educational practices, endangers the health or
48 safety of students or school personnel, or compromises equal
49 opportunities for learning.

50 (2) The state board shall compile its recommendations for approval
51 of innovation waiver requests into a report and, not later than March
52 fifteenth of each school year, submit such report to the General
53 Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
54 general statutes.

55 (3) The state board shall compile its recommendations for rejection
56 of innovation waiver requests into a report and, not later than March
57 fifteenth of each school year, submit such report to the General
58 Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
59 general statutes.

60 (d) Not later than thirty days following receipt of the report
61 submitted by the State Board of Education, pursuant to subdivision (2)
62 of subsection (c) of this section, the General Assembly may, by joint
63 resolution, disapprove any recommendations of the state board for
64 approval of an innovation waiver request. If the General Assembly
65 fails to disapprove such recommendations, in whole or in part, within
66 such thirty-day period, such recommendations shall be deemed
67 approved and the innovation waiver request shall be deemed granted.

68 (e) The commissioner shall notify the local or regional board of
69 education whether a submitted innovation waiver request was granted
70 or rejected. If an innovation waiver is granted, the commissioner shall
71 prescribe the period of time that such innovation waiver shall be valid,
72 provided such term is not more than two school years.

73 (f) A local or regional board of education may seek an innovation
74 waiver renewal in the manner and form prescribed by the
75 commissioner. Any innovation waiver renewal request shall include
76 how the implementation of the original innovation waiver has been
77 successful in achieving the goals or benchmarks established by the

78 commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. An innovation
79 waiver renewal may be granted in accordance with the provisions of
80 subsections (c) and (d) of this section and, if granted, shall be valid for
81 up to two school years. A local or regional board of education shall not
82 be granted an innovation waiver renewal more than one time.

83 (g) The commissioner may revoke an innovation waiver or an
84 innovation waiver renewal if the commissioner finds that the
85 implementation of such innovation waiver or innovation waiver
86 renewal is not a sound educational practice, endangers health or safety
87 of students or school personnel, or compromises equal opportunities
88 for learning.

89 (h) In recommending approval of innovation requests and
90 innovation waiver renewal requests under this section, the
91 commissioner and state board shall ensure that not more than twenty
92 innovation waivers or innovation waiver renewals are in effect at any
93 one time.

94 (i) Any local or regional board of education granted an innovation
95 waiver or innovation waiver renewal under this section shall (1)
96 submit to the State Board of Education (A) annual progress reports
97 relating to the implementation of the innovation waiver or innovation
98 waiver renewal, and (B) a final report relating to the results of such
99 innovation waiver or innovation waiver renewal, including whether
100 such innovation waiver or innovation waiver renewal has achieved the
101 goals or benchmarks established by the commissioner, at the
102 conclusion of the innovation waiver or the innovation waiver renewal.
103 (2) make such results available on the Internet web site of such local or
104 regional board, (3) share, upon request, such results with other local or
105 regional boards of education, and (4) if such innovation waiver or
106 innovation waiver renewal is successful, provide instruction and
107 training, upon request, to other local and regional boards of education
108 regarding the implementation of such innovation waiver or innovation
109 waiver renewal.

110 (j) Not later than March 15, 2018, and annually thereafter, the
111 commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions
112 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General Assembly
113 containing any recommendations for legislation and a description of
114 the process developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section."

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