



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 379

LCO No. 2604



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MINORITY
TEACHER RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 5 of public act 15-108 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There is established a task force to study and develop strategies
4 to increase and improve the recruitment, preparation and retention of
5 minority teachers, as defined in section 10-155l of the general statutes,
6 in public schools in the state. Such study shall include, but need not be
7 limited to, (1) an examination of current state-wide and school district
8 demographics, [and] (2) a review of best practices, and (3) whether the
9 Praxis examination, as currently administered in the state, has an effect
10 on minority teacher recruitment.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

13 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

14 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
15 Representatives, who shall be a member of the Black and Puerto Rican
16 Caucus of the General Assembly;

17 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

18 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
19 Representatives;

20 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

21 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

22 (8) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or
23 the president's designee;

24 (9) The executive director of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs
25 Commission, or the executive director's designee;

26 (10) The executive director of the African-American Affairs
27 Commission, or the executive director's designee; and

28 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
29 executive director's designee.

30 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
31 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
32 of the General Assembly.

33 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
34 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
35 filled by the appointing authority.

36 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
37 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
38 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
39 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not
40 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

41 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
42 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
43 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

44 (g) Not later than [February 1, 2016] June 30, 2017, the task force
45 shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint
46 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
47 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
48 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
49 the date that it submits such report or [February 1, 2016] June 30, 2017,
50 whichever is later.

51 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) There is established a Minority
52 Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council within the Department
53 of Education. The council shall hold quarterly meetings and advise, at
54 least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's
55 designee, on ways to (1) encourage minority middle and secondary
56 school students to attend institutions of higher education and enter
57 teacher preparation programs, (2) recruit minority students attending
58 institutions of higher education to enroll in teacher preparation
59 programs and pursue teaching careers, (3) recruit and retain minority
60 teachers in Connecticut schools, (4) recruit minority teachers from
61 other states to teach in Connecticut schools, and (5) recruit minority
62 professionals in other fields to enter teaching. The council shall report,
63 annually, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
64 general statutes, on the recommendations given to the commissioner,
65 or the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the provisions of this
66 section, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
67 having cognizance of matters relating to education. For purposes of
68 this section, "minority" means individuals whose race is defined as
69 other than white, or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino
70 by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by the Bureau
71 of Census of the United States Department of Commerce.

72 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than January 1, 2017,

73 and annually thereafter, the Department of Education shall conduct a
74 survey of students participating in minority teacher recruitment
75 programs offered by regional educational service centers or at a public
76 institution of higher education in the state. Such survey shall include
77 questions relating to the components and effectiveness of the minority
78 teacher recruitment program. The department shall report, annually, in
79 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
80 on the results and findings of the survey to the joint standing
81 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
82 relating to education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	PA 15-108, Sec. 5
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To delay the termination of the minority teacher recruitment task force, to establish the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council within the Department of Education, and to require the Department of Education to conduct an annual survey of students regarding the effectiveness of minority teacher recruitment programs in the state.

[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.]