



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 791

January Session, 2017

Substitute House Bill No. 7253

House of Representatives, May 24, 2017

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-14n of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "mastery examination" means (1) for
4 students enrolled in grades three to eight, inclusive, an examination or
5 examinations, approved by the State Board of Education, that
6 measures essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing or
7 mathematics, (2) for students enrolled in grades five, eight and ten, an
8 examination, approved by the State Board of Education, that measures
9 essential and grade-appropriate skills in science, and (3) for students
10 enrolled in grade eleven, a nationally recognized college readiness
11 assessment, approved by the State Board of Education, that measures
12 essential and grade-appropriate skills in reading, writing and
13 mathematics.

14 (b) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
15 year thereafter, each student enrolled in grades three to eight,
16 inclusive, and grade eleven in any public school shall, annually, take a
17 mastery examination in reading, writing and mathematics during the
18 regular school day.

19 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2013, and each school
20 year thereafter, each student enrolled in grades five, eight and ten in
21 any public school shall, annually, in March or April, take a state-wide
22 mastery examination in science during the regular school day.

23 (c) (1) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (1) of
24 subsection (a) of this section, given to students enrolled in grades three
25 to eight, inclusive, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
26 section, shall be provided by and administered under the supervision
27 of the State Board of Education.

28 (2) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (2) of subsection
29 (a) of this section, given to students enrolled in grades five, eight and
30 ten, pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, shall
31 be provided by and administered under the supervision of the State
32 Board of Education.

33 (3) Mastery examinations, as defined in subdivision (3) of subsection
34 (a) of this section, given to students enrolled in grade eleven, pursuant
35 to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, shall be paid for by
36 the State Board of Education and administered by the provider of such
37 nationally recognized college readiness assessment in accordance with
38 the provisions of the agreement between the state board and such
39 provider, pursuant to section 10-14x.

40 (d) The scores on each component of the mastery examination, as
41 defined in subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section, for each
42 eleventh grade student may be included on the permanent record and
43 transcript of each such student who takes such examination. For each
44 eleventh grade student who meets or exceeds the state-wide mastery
45 goal level on any component of the mastery examination, a

46 certification of having met or exceeded such goal level shall be made
47 on the permanent record and the transcript of each such student and
48 such student shall be issued a certificate of mastery for such
49 component.

50 (e) No public school may require achievement of a satisfactory score
51 on a mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of
52 such examination as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

53 (f) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
54 year thereafter, the scores on each component of the mastery
55 examination for students who are English language learners, as
56 defined in section 10-76kk, and who have been enrolled in a school in
57 this state or another state for fewer than twenty school months, shall
58 not be used for purposes of calculating the [school performance index,
59 pursuant to section 10-223e, or the district performance index,
60 pursuant to section 10-262u] accountability index, as defined in section
61 10-223e, for a school or school district.

62 (2) For the school year commencing July 1, 2015, and each school
63 year thereafter, mastery examinations pursuant to subsection (b) of
64 this section shall be offered in the most common native language of
65 students who are English language learners taking such mastery
66 examinations and any additional native languages of such students
67 when mastery examinations in such native languages are developed
68 and have been approved by the United States Department of
69 Education.

70 (g) Not later than August fifteenth of each school year, the
71 Department of Education shall notify each local and regional board of
72 education of the scores of students under the jurisdiction of the board
73 on the mastery examination administered during the previous school
74 year.

75 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
76 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
77 *1, 2017*):

78 (g) On or after July 1, 1989, and prior to July 1, [2016] 2018, to
79 qualify for a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or
80 has held a provisional educator certificate under subsection (e) of this
81 section shall have completed thirty credit hours of course work beyond
82 the baccalaureate degree. It is not necessary that such course work be
83 taken for a master's degree and such work may include graduate or
84 undergraduate courses. On and after July 1, [2016] 2018, to qualify for
85 a professional educator certificate, a person who holds or has held a
86 provisional educator certificate under subsection (d) of this section
87 shall hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as
88 determined by the State Board of Education, related to such teacher's
89 certification endorsement area.

90 Sec. 3. Subdivision (7) of section 10-144o of the general statutes is
91 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
92 *1, 2017*):

93 (7) "Professional educator certificate" means a license to teach issued
94 on or after July 1, 1989, initially to a person who has successfully
95 completed not less than three school years of teaching in a public
96 school or nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education
97 while holding a provisional educator or provisional teaching certificate
98 and prior to July 1, [2016] 2018, has successfully completed not fewer
99 than thirty semester hours of credit beyond a bachelor's degree, and on
100 and after July 1, [2016] 2018, holds a master's degree in an appropriate
101 subject matter area, as determined by the State Board of Education,
102 related to such person's certification endorsement area. Said certificate
103 shall be continued every five years after issuance;

104 Sec. 4. Subsection (j) of section 10-223h of the general statutes is
105 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
106 *1, 2017*):

107 (j) (1) [The] Not later than September 15, 2017, and annually
108 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a
109 report on the academic performance of each school participating in the
110 commissioner's network of schools to the joint standing committee of

111 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
112 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such
113 report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the accountability index
114 score, as defined in section 10-223e, for such school, (B) trends for the
115 accountability index scores during the period that such school is
116 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C)
117 adjustments for subgroups of students at such school, including, but
118 not limited to, students whose primary language is not English,
119 students receiving special education services and students who are
120 eligible for free or reduced price lunches, and (D) performance
121 evaluation results in the aggregate for teachers and administrators at
122 such school.

123 (2) [The] Not later than September 15, 2017, and annually thereafter,
124 the Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a report
125 comparing and analyzing the academic performance of all the schools
126 participating in the commissioner's network of schools to the joint
127 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
128 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
129 section 11-4a. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the
130 accountability index score, as defined in section 10-223e, for the school,
131 (B) trends for the accountability indices during the period that such
132 schools are participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C)
133 adjustments for subgroups of students at such schools, including, but
134 not limited to, students whose primary language is not English,
135 students receiving special education services and students who are
136 eligible for free or reduced price lunches, and (D) performance
137 evaluation results in the aggregate for teachers and administrators at
138 such schools.

139 (3) [Following] Not later than September fifteenth following the
140 expiration of the turnaround plan for each school participating in the
141 commissioner's network of schools, the commissioner shall submit a
142 final report that (A) evaluates such turnaround plan and the academic
143 performance of such school during the period that such turnaround
144 plan was in effect, and (B) makes recommendations for the operation

145 of such school to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
146 having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with
147 the provisions of section 11-4a.

148 (4) Not later than January 1, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a
149 report (A) evaluating the commissioner's network of schools and its
150 effect on improving student academic achievement in participating
151 schools, and (B) making any recommendations for the continued
152 operation of the commissioner's network of schools to the joint
153 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
154 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
155 section 11-4a.

156 (5) Not later than September thirtieth each year, the joint standing
157 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
158 relating to education shall meet with the Commissioner of Education
159 and any other persons they deem appropriate to consider the items
160 submitted pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this
161 subsection.

162 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is
163 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
164 *1, 2017*):

165 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually
166 to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five,
167 inclusive, a vision screening, using a Snellen chart, or equivalent
168 screening. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to
169 the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is found to have any
170 defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief statement describing
171 such defect or disease and a recommendation for the pupil to be
172 examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380 or an
173 ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370, and (2) who did not
174 receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why
175 such pupil did not receive such vision screening.

176 Sec. 6. Subsection (c) of section 10-91g of the general statutes is

177 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
178 *passage*):

179 (c) The Auditors of Public Accounts shall conduct the audit
180 described in subsection (b) of this section as follows: (1) [At least once
181 for each private provider] The Auditors of Public Accounts, using a
182 risk-based approach, shall audit private providers of special education
183 services [during a period of seven years] at a frequency that they deem
184 necessary, except that no private provider of special education services
185 shall have its records and accounts so examined more than once
186 during such five-year period, unless the auditors have found a
187 problem with the records and accounts of such private provider of
188 special education services during such five-year period; (2) [as
189 practical, approximately half of such] audits [conducted in a year] shall
190 be of private providers of special education services approved by the
191 Department of Education and [approximately half of such audits
192 conducted in such year shall be] of private providers of special
193 education services not approved by the Department of Education; and
194 (3) priority of conducting such audits, as practical, shall be given to
195 those private providers of special education services (A) that receive
196 the greatest total amount of state or local funds for the provision of
197 special education services to students, (B) that provide special
198 education services to the highest number of students for whom an
199 individual services plan has been written by a local or regional board
200 of education, and (C) that have a highest proportion of state and local
201 funds for the provision of special education services in relation to their
202 total operational expenses.

203 Sec. 7. Section 10-91h of the general statutes is repealed and the
204 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

205 Each local and regional board of education shall annually provide to
206 the Auditors of Public Accounts (1) the number of students under the
207 jurisdiction of such board of education who receive special education
208 and related services from a private provider of special education
209 services, as defined in section 10-91g, as amended by this act, [and] (2)

210 the amount of money paid to such private providers of special
211 education services by the board during the previous fiscal year, and (3)
212 any other information the Auditors of Public Accounts deem necessary
213 to conduct an audit of such private providers of special education
214 services pursuant to section 10-91g, as amended by this act.

215 Sec. 8. Subsection (i) of section 2-90 of the general statutes is
216 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
217 *passage*):

218 (i) Said auditors shall audit, in accordance with the provisions of
219 section 10-91g, as amended by this act, the records and accounts of any
220 private provider of special education services, as defined in said
221 section. Any private provider of special education services being
222 audited by said auditors shall provide any information said auditors
223 deem necessary to conduct such audit.

224 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 10-16nn of the general statutes is
225 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
226 *passage*):

227 (a) There is established an Interagency Council for Ending the
228 Achievement Gap. The council shall consist of: (1) The Lieutenant
229 Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee, (2) the
230 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, (3) the
231 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's
232 designee, (4) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
233 commissioner's designee, (5) the Commissioner of Public Health, or the
234 commissioner's designee, (6) the president of the Connecticut State
235 Colleges and Universities, or the president's designee, (7) the
236 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
237 commissioner's designee, (8) the Commissioner of Administrative
238 Services, or the commissioner's designee, (9) the Secretary of the Office
239 of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, [and] (10) the
240 Commissioner of Housing, or the commissioner's designee, and (11)
241 the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's
242 designee. The chairperson of the council shall be the Lieutenant

243 Governor, or the Lieutenant Governor's designee. The council shall
244 meet at least quarterly.

245 Sec. 10. Subsection (h) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
246 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
247 *1, 2017*):

248 (h) Any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist,
249 pursuant to section 20-195c, or a candidate for licensure as a marital
250 and family therapist, and employed by a local or regional board of
251 education as a marital and family therapist shall provide services to
252 students, families and parents or guardians of students. Not later than
253 July 1, 2014, the State Board of Education shall, in accordance with the
254 provisions of chapter 54, adopt regulations to implement the
255 provisions of this subsection and provide standards for the
256 certification of marital and family therapists employed by local or
257 regional boards of education. Such regulations shall authorize marital
258 and family therapists employed by a local or regional board of
259 education to provide services to students, families and parents or
260 guardians of students and include certification requirements to be met
261 by (1) licensure as a marital and family therapist under section 20-195c,
262 and (2) such other experience as the State Board of Education deems
263 appropriate for the position of marital and family therapist in a school
264 system.

265 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2017*) A local or regional board of
266 education may establish a Pipeline for Connecticut's Future program.
267 Under the program, a local or regional board of education shall partner
268 with one or more local businesses to offer on-site training and course
269 credit to students.

270 Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Education shall
271 conduct a study regarding the October first reporting date for
272 purposes of interdistrict magnet school enrollment, as prescribed in
273 subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-264l of the general
274 statutes. The study shall examine the feasibility of extending such
275 reporting date by at least one calendar month, and shall include, but

276 not be limited to, an analysis of how such extension will impact (1)
277 magnet school operators and local and regional boards of education,
278 and (2) state grants relating to interdistrict magnet schools, such as
279 prior year adjustments and other reconciliations that are designed to
280 keep school districts whole. Not later than January 1, 2018, the
281 department shall submit such study and any recommendations to the
282 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
283 of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
284 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

285 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 10-157 of the general statutes is
286 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
287 *passage*):

288 (b) A local or regional board of education may appoint as acting
289 superintendent a person who is or is not properly certified for a
290 probationary period, not to exceed one school year, with the approval
291 of the Commissioner of Education. During such probationary period
292 such acting superintendent shall assume all duties of the
293 superintendent for the time specified and shall successfully complete a
294 school leadership program, approved by the State Board of Education,
295 offered at a public or private institution of higher education in the
296 state. At the conclusion of such probationary period, such appointing
297 local or regional board of education may request the commissioner to
298 grant (1) a waiver of certification for such acting superintendent
299 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or (2) a one-time extension of
300 such probationary period, not to exceed one additional school year, if
301 the commissioner determines that such board of education has
302 demonstrated a significant need or hardship for such extension.

303 Sec. 14. (*Effective from passage*) There is established a task force to
304 study issues relating to the governance, financing, general conduct and
305 role of interscholastic athletics programs offered at high schools in the
306 state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of
307 the following: (1) Barriers to participation in sanctioned interscholastic
308 athletic activities, (2) the impact of nonsanctioned activities on

309 interscholastic sports participation, (3) financing of interscholastic
310 athletic teams, (4) policies regarding performance reviews of
311 interscholastic schools by school districts, (5) the length of the athletic
312 season for specific sports and restrictions on participation in
313 interscholastic athletics, (6) academic requirements for participation in
314 interscholastic athletics, (7) safety and sportsmanship of participants
315 and spectators, and (8) issues relating to the participation of students
316 enrolled in nonpublic schools and schools of choice.

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

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

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

320 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
321 Representatives, who is an official, referee or umpire of interscholastic
322 athletics;

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

324 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
325 Representatives, who is an athletic trainer for interscholastic sports;

326 (6) One appointed by the Senate Republican president pro tempore;

327 (7) A representative of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic
328 Conference;

329 (8) A representative of the Connecticut High School Coaches
330 Association;

331 (9) A representative of the Connecticut Athletic Directors
332 Association;

333 (10) A representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of
334 Education;

335 (11) A representative of the Connecticut Association of Public

336 School Superintendents; and

337 (12) A representative of the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association.

338 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
 339 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
 340 of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

352 (g) Not later than January 1, 2018, the task force shall submit a
 353 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
 354 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 355 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
 356 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
 357 that it submits such report or January 1, 2018, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2017	10-14n
Sec. 2	July 1, 2017	10-145b(g)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2017	10-144o(7)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2017	10-223h(j)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2017	10-214(a)
Sec. 6	from passage	10-91g(c)
Sec. 7	from passage	10-91h

Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	2-90(i)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-16nn(a)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-145d(h)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	10-157(b)
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes several changes to the education statutes, one of which could result in a potential cost to local and regional school districts.

The bill allows a local or regional board of education to establish a Pipeline for Connecticut’s Future program to partner with local businesses to offer on-site training. This could result in a potential cost to local and regional school districts. However, it is anticipated that districts would only choose to enter into partnerships if they did not result in additional costs.

The bill makes various other procedural, technical and conforming changes that are not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7253

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes in the education statutes:

1. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to provide local and regional boards of education with mastery exam scores by August 15 of each school year following the exam administration (§ 1);
2. postpones for two years, from July 1, 2016 to July 1, 2018, the requirement that a person hold a master's degree in a subject matter area determined by the State Board of Education (SBE) in order to earn a professional educator certificate (see BACKGROUND) (§§ 2 & 3);
3. establishes a specific date by which the education commissioner must submit reports to the Education Committee on the commissioner's network of schools and requires the committee to meet annually with the commissioner to discuss such reports (§ 4);
4. requires public school superintendents to recommend in writing to a student's parents or guardians that the child be examined by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist if the child is found to have a vision defect or eye disease during an in-school exam (§ 5);
5. changes the frequency of private special education provider audits and requires boards of education and private providers to provide auditors with certain information (§§ 6-8);

6. adds the chief court administrator, or his designee, to the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap membership (see BACKGROUND) (§ 9);
7. allows boards of education to employ candidates for marital and family therapist licensure in their schools to provide services to students and their parents or guardians (§ 10);
8. allows boards of education to establish a “Pipeline for Connecticut’s Future” program, in which boards of education must partner with local businesses to offer on-site training and course credit (§ 11);
9. requires SDE to conduct a study and report to the Education Committee on extending the annual October 1 deadline by which magnet school operators must report their enrollment numbers to the department (§ 12);
10. allows a board of education to request from the education commissioner a one-time probationary extension for an uncertified, acting superintendent under certain circumstances (§ 13); and
11. establishes a task force to study issues related to high school interscholastic athletics programs (§ 14).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017, except the sections about special education provider audits (§§ 6-8), the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap (§ 9), magnet school enrollment reporting (§ 12), superintendent probationary periods (§ 13), and the athletics programs task force (§ 14) take effect upon passage.

§ 4 — COMMISSIONER’S NETWORK REPORTS

By law, the “commissioner’s network of schools” is a program that selects certain low-performing schools to craft turnaround plans aimed at improving student performance. The state supplies additional

funds to help implement a school's turnaround plan once the education commissioner approves it.

Current law requires the commissioner to submit two annual reports to the Education Committee: one on the academic performance of each school in the network and another comparing and analyzing the academic performance of all schools in the network. The bill establishes an initial September 15, 2017 deadline for these annual reports.

Additionally, current law requires the commissioner to submit a final report to the Education Committee on each school in the network after the schools' respective turnaround plans expire. This report evaluates each plan and the school's academic performance under the plan and makes recommendations about the school's operation. The bill specifies that the commissioner must submit these final reports no later than September 15 after the expiration of the respective turnaround plans.

The bill also requires the Education Committee to meet annually, by September 30, with the commissioner and any other people it deems appropriate to discuss the above three reports, along with a report due January 1, 2020 under existing law in which the commissioner must evaluate the entire network and make recommendations about its operation.

§§ 6-8 — AUDITS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Existing law requires the Auditors of Public Accounts to examine the records and accounts of private special education providers. The examination must include a compliance audit of whether the private provider expended state or local funds for allowable costs in accordance with (1) state and federal law and (2) the Individualized Education Program (IEP) or individual services plan for each child receiving special education and related services from the provider.

Under the bill, the auditors may determine the frequency of such audits as often as they deem necessary using a risk-based approach,

rather than auditing each provider at least once every seven years as required by law. The law still limits the number of audits of a private provider to no more than once every five years, however, unless the auditors have found a problem with the provider's records and accounts. Additionally, the bill requires boards of education, as well as private providers, to give the auditors any information the auditors deem necessary to conduct the audit.

§ 12 — MAGNET SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REPORTING STUDY

By law, magnet school operators ("operators") receive state operating grants by September 1 and May 1 each fiscal year that are based in part on student enrollment. Operators must submit October 1 enrollment numbers to SDE so that the department can adjust the May 1 grant payment to reflect actual enrollment (CGS § 10-264l).

The bill requires SDE, by January 1, 2018, to submit a study to the Education Committee about the feasibility of extending the annual October 1 enrollment reporting deadline by at least one calendar month. The study must include an analysis of how this extension will impact (1) operators and boards of education and (2) state interdistrict magnet school grants, including prior year adjustments and other reconciliations designed to keep school districts whole. The study may include SDE recommendations.

§ 13 — EXTENSION OF ACTING SUPERINTENDENT PROBATIONARY PERIOD

The law allows a board of education to appoint an uncertified, acting superintendent for a one-year probationary period with the education commissioner's approval. Under the bill, the board may request that the commissioner grant a one-time probationary period extension, up to one additional school year. In order to grant the extension, the commissioner must determine that the board has shown a significant need or hardship.

§ 14 — TASK FORCE ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

The bill creates a 12-member task force to study the governance,

financing, general conduct, and role of high school interscholastic athletics programs in Connecticut. The Education Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the task force’s staff. The bill establishes the task force study scope and membership.

Study Scope

The task force study must examine the following topics:

1. barriers to participation in sanctioned interscholastic athletic activities,
2. the impact of non-sanctioned activities on interscholastic sports participation,
3. financing of interscholastic athletic teams,
4. policies regarding school districts’ performance reviews of interscholastic schools,
5. the athletic season’s length for specific sports and restrictions on participation in interscholastic athletics,
6. academic requirements for interscholastic athletics participation,
7. participant and spectator safety and sportsmanship, and
8. issues relating to participation of students enrolled in private schools and schools of choice.

The task force must submit its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2018. It terminates on that date or the date it submits the report, whichever is later.

Membership

Table 1 below describes the task force membership and appointing authorities. The legislative leaders’ six appointees may be legislators.

Table 1: Interscholastic Athletics Task Force Membership

<i>Appointing authority</i>	<i>Member specifications</i>
House speaker	None
Senate president pro tempore	None
House majority leader	Interscholastic athletics official, referee, or umpire
Senate majority leader	None
House minority leader	Athletic trainer for interscholastic sports
Senate Republican president pro tempore	None
N/A	Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference representative
N/A	Connecticut High School Coaches Association representative
N/A	Connecticut Athletic Directors Association representative
N/A	Connecticut Association of Boards of Education representative
N/A	Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents representative
N/A	Connecticut Parent Teacher Association representative

The bill requires that the legislative leaders appoint their members to the task force within 30 days after the bill's passage. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the task force chairpersons, who must schedule the first task force meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage.

BACKGROUND

Professional Educator Certificate

This certificate is the highest level certificate for public school teachers. Prior to July 1, 2016, to earn this certificate a teacher must have held a provisional teaching certificate (i.e., the mid-level certificate), have taught at least three years, and completed at least 30 semester credit hours beyond a bachelor's degree. On and after that date, a teacher must hold a master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area related to the certification endorsement area, as determined by SBE (CGS § 10-144o).

Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap

This council is charged with assisting the achievement gap task force in developing its master plan, implementing the plan's

provisions, and submitting annual progress reports on plan implementation to the Education Committee (CGS § 10-16nn).

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 552) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that (1) eliminated the provision that adjusted SDE’s timetable for distributing individualized education program software to school districts, (2) removed provisions that specified the types of public schools and boards of education subject to SBE’s statutorily prescribed complaint process, and (3) made a technical change to reflect the Senate Republican president pro tempore’s title for purposes of a task force appointment.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/24/2017)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 48 Nay 0 (05/12/2017)