
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7113 (as amended by House "A" and "B")*

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION ISSUES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following unrelated changes in the education statutes:

1. repeals an expedited teacher tenure provision for teachers or administrators who were previously tenured in one district and subsequently transfer into a priority school district (§ 2);
2. establishes a working group to study issues related to implementing the pre-service teacher performance assessment known as “edTPA,” which was adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) (§ 3); and
3. allows non-*Sheff* magnet schools that are not in compliance with the state’s minority student enrollment requirements to continue to be eligible for magnet school operating grants for FYs 20 and 21 if the schools submit a compliance plan to the education commissioner and she approves it (§ 4).

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment “A” replaces the underlying bill, which required the State Department of Education (SDE) to study education issues in the state. The amendment (1) requires public schools to include climate change as part of their science program of instruction, (2) repeals an expedited tenure provision for teachers in priority school districts, (3) establishes a working group to study edTPA, (4) maintains grant eligibility for certain non-*Sheff* magnet schools that are not in compliance with statutory minority enrollment requirements, and (5) makes technical and conforming changes.

*House Amendment "B" removes the requirement that public schools include climate change as part of their science program of instruction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019, except the pre-service performance assessment working group provisions take effect upon passage.

§ 2 — TENURE FOR PRIORITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS

The bill repeals a provision that allows a certified teacher or administrator who previously earned tenure in a Connecticut or out-of-state school district to be awarded tenure at a priority school district after teaching there for one school year. (By law, such a teacher moving from one district to another must otherwise teach for two years at the new district before being eligible for tenure.)

§ 3 — PRE-SERVICE TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The bill establishes a working group to study issues related to implementing the pre-service teacher performance assessment known as edTPA. (SBE adopted a resolution on December 7, 2016, requiring teacher preparation programs to use edTPA.) The working group must submit its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee no later than January 1, 2020.

The working group must examine how teacher preparation programs in the state are implementing the edTPA assessment and in particular:

1. the associated financial costs for colleges, universities, and enrolled students;
2. whether it is evidence-based or a best practice;
3. whether other states are using edTPA as part of teacher preparation programs or requiring it for professional certification; and
4. any effect on world language instruction.

Working Group Members and Chairperson Selection

The group consists of seven members, listed in Table 1 with their qualifications and appointing authorities.

Table 1: Membership of the Pre-Service Teacher Performance Assessment Working Group

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
Education Commissioner, or her designee	N/A
House speaker	Connecticut teacher preparation program professor
Senate president pro tempore	Connecticut teacher preparation program dean
House majority leader	Person with expertise in teacher preparation pre-service performance assessments
Senate majority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program student
House minority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program student
Senate minority leader	Connecticut teacher preparation program recent graduate

Under the bill, appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill takes effect. Vacancies are filled by the appointing authority.

The education commissioner, or her designee, must schedule the first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill takes effect. The working group members elect the chairperson from among the members at the first meeting. The Education Committee's administrative staff must serve in that capacity for the working group.

The working group terminates on the date that it submits its report or January 1, 2020, whichever is later.

§ 4 — MAGNET SCHOOL NON-COMPLIANCE PLAN

The bill permits a non-*Sheff* magnet school that is not in compliance with the state's minority student enrollment requirements (i.e., integration requirements) to continue to be eligible for magnet school

operating grants in FYs 20 and 21 if the school submits a compliance plan to the education commissioner and she approves it. The bill does not specify a deadline by which a school must submit its plan.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/25/2019)