AN ACT BOLSTERING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10-146c of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, as agent for the state shall enter into reciprocity agreements concerning professional certification reciprocity with the chief education officials for the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, New York and New Jersey. Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a progress report on the development and implementation of such reciprocity agreements and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.
Sec. 2. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1) employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2) employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c, (3) employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education and career school located in such priority or transitional school districts, [or] (4) who teach in a subject matter shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (6) who graduated from an historically black college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to time and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase of a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a teacher employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education and career school located in a priority or transitional school district, the house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of any mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a reasonable portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged property.

Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of education, the State Board of Education or by any constituent unit of
the state system of higher education (1) in a position [(1)] designated
by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area for the
school year in which the teacher is being employed, [or] (2) at a school
located in a school district identified as a priority school district,
pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the teacher is
being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from a public high school
in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (4) if
the teacher graduated from an historically black college or university
or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the
Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to
time and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of
2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such
reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer and by the
retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the assignment.
Such reemployment may be extended for an additional school year,
provided the local board of education (A) submits a written request for
approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no
qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such
teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the
anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
1, 2019):

(a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper
application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who
(1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution
of higher education [accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
Education or Office of Higher Education or] that is regionally
accredited or has received an equivalent accreditation, and (2) has
completed (A) an educator preparation program approved by the State
Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in
which the institution of higher education is located, or (B) an alternate
route to certification program approved by the State Board of
Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which
such alternate route to certification program is located, and satisfies
the requirements for a temporary ninety-day certificate, pursuant to
subsection (c) of this section, or a resident teacher certificate, pursuant
to section 10-145m. In addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each
applicant shall have completed a subject area major as defined by the
State Board of Education, except (i) as provided in section 10-145l, or
(ii) where an applicant achieves a satisfactory evaluation on an
appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
assessment and has completed advanced coursework in a relevant
subject area. Each such initial educator certificate shall be valid for
three years, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, and
may be extended by the Commissioner of Education for an additional
year for good cause upon the request of the superintendent in whose
school district such person is employed or upon the request of the
assessment team reviewing such person's performance.

Sec. 5. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10-145f of the general
statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
(Effective July 1, 2019):

(e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
who holds a valid teaching certificate that is at least equivalent to an
initial educator certificate, as determined by the State Board of
Education, and such certificate is issued by a state other than
Connecticut in the subject area or endorsement area for which such
person is seeking certification in Connecticut shall not be required to
successfully complete the competency examination and subject matter
assessment pursuant to this section, if such person has either [(1)] (A)
successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or
service in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking
certification in Connecticut in the past ten years in a public school or a
nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of
education in such other state, or [(2)] (B) holds a master's degree or
higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking certification
in Connecticut.
(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who has held a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of Education and such certificate has expired shall not be required to successfully complete the subject matter assessment in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking renewal or advancement of such certificate, pursuant to this section, if such person has either (A) successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or service under a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of Education or issued by a state other than Connecticut, in the past ten years in such endorsement area in a public school or a nonpublic school, or (B) holds a master's degree or higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking renewal or advancement of such certificate.

(f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who has achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an equivalent competency examination or subject area assessment required for educator certification in another state shall not be required to achieve a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject matter assessment pursuant to this section, provided the State Board of Education determines that the requirements for achieving a satisfactory evaluation on such equivalent competency examination or subject area assessment in another state are at least equivalent to the requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education for achieving a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject matter assessment pursuant to this section.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who has previously achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area assessment for a teaching certificate that has expired shall not be required to take the appropriate subject matter assessment currently approved by the State Board of Education, provided the Commissioner of Education determines that the requirements for achieving a satisfactory evaluation on such previous subject area assessment are at least equivalent to the requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education.
Education for such current subject matter assessment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

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<th>Section</th>
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<th>New Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>from passage</td>
<td>New section</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>8-265pp</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>10-183v(b)</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>10-145b(a)</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>10-145f(e) and (f)</td>
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**Statement of Purpose:**
To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[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.]