



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

***Raised Bill No. 1022***

LCO No. 5282



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) For the school year  
2 commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year thereafter, the Minority  
3 Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to  
4 section 10-156bb of the general statutes, in consultation with the  
5 minority teacher recruitment task force, established pursuant to section  
6 10-156aa of the general statutes, shall develop and implement  
7 strategies and utilize existing resources to ensure that at least two  
8 hundred fifty new minority teachers and administrators, of which at  
9 least thirty per cent are men, are hired and employed by local and  
10 regional boards of education each year in the state. As used in this  
11 section, "minority" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-  
12 156bb of the general statutes.

13 Sec. 2. Section 10-146c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

15 (a) As used in this section:

16 (1) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
17 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or territories or  
18 possessions of the United States; and

19 (2) "Educator preparation program" means a program designed to  
20 qualify an individual for professional certification as an educator  
21 provided by institutions of higher education or other providers,  
22 including, but not limited to, an alternate route to certification  
23 program.

24 (b) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,  
25 as agent for the state shall enter into reciprocity agreements concerning  
26 professional certification reciprocity with the chief education officials  
27 for each state. If the commissioner is unable to establish a reciprocity  
28 agreement with another state, the commissioner may establish or join  
29 an interstate agreement pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

30 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
31 designee, as agent for the state shall establish or join interstate  
32 agreements with other states to facilitate the certification of qualified  
33 educators from other states. Any such interstate agreement shall  
34 include provisions requiring candidates for certification to, at a  
35 minimum, (1) hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited  
36 college or university, (2) have fulfilled post-preparation assessments as  
37 approved by the commissioner, and (3) have successfully completed  
38 an approved educator preparation program. Notwithstanding the  
39 provisions of sections 10-145b and 10-145f, as amended by this act, the  
40 State Board of Education shall issue the appropriate professional  
41 certificate to any applicant, based on such applicant's qualifications,  
42 who satisfies the requirements of the appropriate interstate agreement.

43 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) If the commissioner is unable to establish or join a  
44 reciprocity agreement or an interstate agreement with another state,  
45 the commissioner may create and make available a recognition  
46 statement that specifies the states, assessments and educator

47 preparation programs that the commissioner will recognize for  
48 purposes of issuing professional certification under sections 10-145b  
49 and 10-145f, as amended by this act.

50 (e) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the  
51 commissioner shall submit a progress report on the development and  
52 implementation of reciprocity agreements and interstate agreements  
53 and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing  
54 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
55 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-  
56 4a.

57 Sec. 3. Subsection (d) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is  
58 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
59 *1, 2019*):

60 (d) (1) On and after July 1, [2016] 2019, in order to be eligible to  
61 obtain an initial educator certificate, each person shall be required to  
62 complete (A) a course of study in special education comprised of not  
63 fewer than thirty-six hours, which shall include [an understanding of]  
64 (i) instruction on the growth and development of exceptional children,  
65 including children with a disability, gifted and talented children and  
66 children who may require special education, and (ii) methods for  
67 identifying, planning for and working effectively with special needs  
68 children in a regular classroom, and (B) a course or courses of study in  
69 special education relating to instruction on classroom techniques in  
70 reading, differentiated instruction, social-emotional learning, [cultural  
71 competencies] culturally responsive pedagogy and practice and  
72 assistive technology. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply  
73 to any person who has been issued an initial educator certificate prior  
74 to July 1, [2016] 2019.

75 (2) On and after July 1, 2016, in order to be eligible to obtain a  
76 provisional educator certificate, each person shall be required to  
77 complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer  
78 than thirty-six hours, which shall include an understanding of the

79 growth and development of exceptional children, including children  
80 with a disability, gifted and talented children and children who may  
81 require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for  
82 and working effectively with special needs children in a regular  
83 classroom.

84 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the  
85 contrary, each applicant for such certificates who has met all  
86 requirements for certification except the completion of the course in  
87 special education shall be entitled to a certificate (A) for a period not to  
88 exceed one year, provided the applicant completed a teacher  
89 preparation program either in the state prior to July 1, 1987, or outside  
90 the state, or completed the necessary combination of professional  
91 experience or coursework as required by the State Board of Education  
92 or (B) for a period not to exceed two years if the applicant applies for  
93 certification in an area for which a bachelor's degree is not required.

94 (4) Except as otherwise provided in section 10-146c, as amended by  
95 this act, upon receipt of a proper application, the State Board of  
96 Education shall issue an initial educator certificate in the endorsement  
97 area of intermediate administration and supervision, subject to the  
98 provisions of subsection (i) of this section relating to denial of  
99 applications for certification, to an administrator from another state,  
100 territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia  
101 who (A) has been an administrator under an appropriate certificate  
102 issued by another state, territory or possession of the United States or  
103 the District of Columbia for three or more years, and (B) holds a  
104 master's degree in an appropriate subject matter area, as determined  
105 by the State Board of Education. Such applicant shall be exempt from  
106 completing the beginning educator program based upon such  
107 administrator experience upon a showing of effectiveness as an  
108 administrator, as determined by the State Board of Education, which  
109 may include, but need not be limited to, a demonstrated record of  
110 improving student achievement.

111 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) For the fiscal year ending

112 June 30, 2021, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Office of Higher  
113 Education, in collaboration with the Minority Teacher Recruitment  
114 Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to section 10-156bb of  
115 the general statutes, and the minority teacher recruitment task force,  
116 established pursuant to section 10-156aa of the general statutes, shall,  
117 within available appropriations, administer the minority educator loan  
118 reimbursement grant program for persons who meet the eligibility  
119 requirements described in subsection (b) of this section.

120 (b) The program shall provide student loan reimbursement grants to  
121 any person who (1) is defined as a minority pursuant to section 10-155/  
122 of the general statutes, (2) holds professional certification pursuant to  
123 chapter 166 of the general statutes, and (3) is employed as an  
124 administrator or a teacher by a local or regional board of education.

125 (c) Any person who satisfies the eligibility requirements prescribed  
126 in subsection (b) of this section may receive an annual grant for  
127 reimbursement of federal or state educational loans (1) in an amount  
128 up to ten per cent of such person's federal or state educational loans  
129 but that does not exceed five thousand dollars in any year, and (2) for a  
130 period not to exceed ten years. Such person shall only be reimbursed  
131 for loan payments made while such person is employed by a local or  
132 regional board of education.

133 (d) Persons may apply to the Office of Higher Education for grants  
134 under this section at such time and in such manner as the executive  
135 director of the Office of Higher Education prescribes.

136 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section  
137 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for  
138 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

139 Sec. 5. Section 10a-168a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
140 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

141 (a) There is established a Connecticut minority teacher incentive  
142 program administered by the Office of Higher Education.

143 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide  
 144 grants to minority students (1) in teacher education programs for their  
 145 junior or senior year, or both such years, at any four-year institution of  
 146 higher education, (2) completing the requirements of such a teacher  
 147 education program as a graduate student, provided such student  
 148 received a grant pursuant to this section for one year at the  
 149 undergraduate level, or (3) enrolled in the alternate route to  
 150 certification program administered through the Office of Higher  
 151 Education. No student shall receive a grant under the program for  
 152 more than two years. Maximum grants shall not exceed five thousand  
 153 dollars per year. The office shall ensure that at least ten per cent of the  
 154 grant recipients are minority students who transfer from a Connecticut  
 155 regional community-technical college.

156 [(c) A minority student who received grants under subsection (b) of  
 157 this section, and who teaches in a Connecticut public school upon  
 158 graduation, shall be eligible for reimbursement of federal or state  
 159 educational loans up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred  
 160 dollars per year for up to four years of teaching service.

161 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this  
 162 section, the combined dollar value of grants and loan reimbursements  
 163 shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars per student.]

164 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) On and after July 1, 2020, any  
 165 program of school and district leadership preparation leading to  
 166 professional certification shall include, as part of the curriculum,  
 167 instruction in culturally responsive pedagogy and practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-146c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145b(d)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10a-168a
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To recruit and retain minority teachers in Connecticut.

*[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.]*