

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 1022**

LCO No. 7613

**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 Section 10-146c of the general statutes is repealed and the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. Section 10-145l of the general statutes is repealed and the
58 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

59 On and after July 1, 2010, the State Board of Education shall allow
60 an applicant for certification to teach in a subject shortage area
61 pursuant to section 10-8b or a certified employee seeking to teach in
62 such a subject shortage area to substitute achievement of [an excellent]
63 a satisfactory score, as determined by the State Board of Education, on
64 any appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
65 assessment for the subject area requirements for certification pursuant
66 to section 10-145f.

67 Sec. 4. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the
68 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

69 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and
70 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)
71 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)
72 employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c,
73 (3) employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a
74 technical education and career school located in such priority or
75 transitional school districts, [or] (4) who teach in a subject matter
76 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a
77 public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in
78 section 10-262u, or (6) who graduated from an historically black
79 college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms
80 are defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as
81 amended from time to time and reauthorized by the Higher Education
82 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time.
83 Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase
84 of a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a
85 teacher employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by
86 the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education
87 and career school located in a priority or transitional school district,

88 the house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance
89 available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment
90 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of
91 any mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a
92 reasonable portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged
93 property.

94 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
96 *1, 2019*):

97 (b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be
98 reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of
99 education, the State Board of Education or by any constituent unit of
100 the state system of higher education (1) in a position [(1)] designated
101 by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area for the
102 school year in which the teacher is being employed, [or] (2) at a school
103 located in a school district identified as a priority school district,
104 pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the teacher is
105 being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from a public high school
106 in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (4) if
107 the teacher graduated from an historically black college or university
108 or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the
109 Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to
110 time and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of
111 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such
112 reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer and by the
113 retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the assignment.
114 Such reemployment may be extended for an additional school year,
115 provided the local board of education (A) submits a written request for
116 approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no
117 qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such
118 teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the
119 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

120 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is

121 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
122 *1, 2019*):

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

150 Sec. 7. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10-145f of the general
151 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
152 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

153 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person

154 who holds a valid teaching certificate that is at least equivalent to an
155 initial educator certificate, as determined by the State Board of
156 Education, and such certificate is issued by a state other than
157 Connecticut in the subject area or endorsement area for which such
158 person is seeking certification in Connecticut shall not be required to
159 successfully complete the competency examination and subject matter
160 assessment pursuant to this section, if such person has either [(1)] (A)
161 successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or
162 service in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking
163 certification in Connecticut in the past ten years in a public school or a
164 nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of
165 education in such other state, or [(2)] (B) holds a master's degree or
166 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking certification
167 in Connecticut.

168 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who
169 has held a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of
170 Education and such certificate has expired shall not be required to
171 successfully complete the subject matter assessment in the
172 endorsement area for which such person is seeking renewal or
173 advancement of such certificate, pursuant to this section, if such
174 person has either (A) successfully completed at least three years of
175 teaching experience or service in a public school or a nonpublic school
176 under a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of
177 Education or issued by a state other than Connecticut, in the past ten
178 years in such endorsement area, or (B) holds a master's degree or
179 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking renewal or
180 advancement of such certificate.

181 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
182 who has achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an equivalent
183 competency examination or subject area assessment required for
184 educator certification in another state shall not be required to achieve a
185 satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
186 matter assessment pursuant to this section, provided the State Board of
187 Education determines that the requirements for achieving a

188 satisfactory evaluation on such equivalent competency examination or
189 subject area assessment in another state are at least equivalent to the
190 requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education for achieving
191 a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
192 matter assessment pursuant to this section.

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

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>	10-145l
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	8-265pp
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-183v(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145b(a)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145f(e) and (f)