OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 1023

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPELLED STUDENTS BY BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires local and regional boards of education to offer any expelled student at least one of the following two alternative education opportunities during the expulsion period: (1) “alternative education,” as defined in existing law, with an individualized learning plan, if the board provides alternative education or (2) an alternative education opportunity that complies with State Board of Education (SBE)-developed standards (see BACKGROUND). Current law requires boards to offer (1) one of the same two opportunities to expelled students age 15 or younger and (2) an alternative educational opportunity to expelled students age 16 to 18 who comply with board-established conditions.

Under the bill, boards may still offer expelled students adult education as an alternative education opportunity, but only to those age 18 or older, rather than age 17 or older as under current law (see BACKGROUND).

The bill also removes the (1) option for boards of education to offer alternative education opportunities to students who were not expelled and (2) requirement that boards consider a student’s expulsion at age 15 or younger when deciding whether he or she requires an alternative education opportunity at ages 16 to 18.

By law and unchanged by the bill, parents or guardians who decline to enroll their expelled child in the alternative educational opportunity offered by the board are not subject to the state’s public school attendance law. Additionally, students who participate in an adult education program during an expulsion period are not required to
withdraw from their public school.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Alternative Education

By law, “alternative education” is a school or program maintained and operated by a local or regional board of education that is offered to students in a nontraditional educational setting and addresses their social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs (CGS § 10-74j).

SBE Standards for Alternative Education

As required by PA 17-220, SBE adopted “Standards for Alternative Education Opportunities for Students Who Have Been Expelled” on January 3, 2018. The standards require the following, among other things:

1. a meeting with parents or guardians to consider all education opportunities for the expelled student and to make a placement decision;

2. student placement in a full-time, comprehensive experience where learning is comparable to what he or she would experience in a regular school environment; and

3. an individualized learning plan developed for the student after placement.

Adult Education

By law, “adult education” is a program of adult classes established and maintained by a local or regional board of education or provided through cooperative arrangements with multiple boards of education or a regional education service center. The program must provide instruction in elementary and secondary school completion, among other things (CGS § 10-69).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee
Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea  22  Nay  13  (03/29/2019)