



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6621

January Session, 2021



AN ACT CONCERNING ASSORTED REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE EDUCATION STATUTES.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-238 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 The board of education of any municipality, upon written petition
4 signed by one per cent of the electors of such municipality or fifty such
5 electors, whichever is greater, the signatures thereon to be verified by
6 the clerk of the municipality, shall hold a public hearing on any question
7 relating to the provision of education offered by such board specified in
8 such petition. Such hearing shall be held at a time and place to be
9 designated by such board, not later than three weeks after receipt by the
10 board of such petition.

11 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-214 of the general statutes is
12 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
13 *2021*):

14 (a) Each local or regional board of education shall provide annually
15 to each pupil in kindergarten and grades one and three to five, inclusive,
16 a vision screening. [.] Such vision screening may be performed using a
17 Snellen chart [.] or an equivalent screening device, [such as] or an

18 automated vision screening device. The superintendent of schools shall
19 give written notice to the parent or guardian of each pupil (1) who is
20 found to have any defect of vision or disease of the eyes, with a brief
21 statement describing such defect or disease and a recommendation for
22 the pupil to be examined by an optometrist licensed under chapter 380
23 or an ophthalmologist licensed under chapter 370, and (2) who did not
24 receive such vision screening, with a brief statement explaining why
25 such pupil did not receive such vision screening.

26 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
27 study issues relating to the provision and funding of special education
28 in the state. Such study shall examine (1) the provision of special
29 education and related services, including whether local and regional
30 boards of education are providing such services directly or partnering
31 with regional educational service centers, contracting with a private
32 provider of special education services, as defined in section 10-91g of
33 the general statutes, or as part of a cooperative arrangement pursuant
34 to section 10-158a of the general statutes, (2) the cost of providing special
35 education and related services, including the total aggregate amount per
36 school district per year, and the annual percentage increase or decrease
37 per school district of such cost, (3) the effect that the cost of special
38 education has on a board of education's minimum budget requirement,
39 and (4) the level of state reimbursement to boards of education for
40 special education, including the total amount for reimbursement
41 submitted by each school district per year and the total amount received
42 by such school district per year, and the percentage increase or decrease
43 per year of the difference of the total amount submitted and the total
44 amount received for each school district.

45 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

46 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
47 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of
48 Boards of Education and one of whom is the parent or guardian of a
49 student who is enrolled in a public school and receiving special
50 education services;

51 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
52 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association and
53 one of whom is the parent or guardian of a student who is enrolled in a
54 public school and receiving special education services;

55 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
56 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American
57 Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom is a representative
58 of the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center;

59 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom
60 is a representative of the Connecticut Council of Administrators of
61 Special Education and one of whom is a representative of the RESC
62 Alliance;

63 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
64 Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut
65 Association of School Administrators and one of whom is a
66 representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

67 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
68 is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools and one of
69 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School
70 Business Officials;

71 (7) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public
72 School Superintendents; and

73 (8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

74 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than
75 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
76 filled by the appointing authority.

77 (d) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public
78 School Superintendents shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.
79 The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which

