
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 274

AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

SUMMARY

This bill renames the minority teacher recruitment (MTR) task force and requires it to conduct a study of existing recruitment and retention programs.

Under the bill, the newly named “Task Force to Diversify the Educator Workforce” maintains the same membership and mission as outlined in existing law. The bill adds a new study to the task force’s charge, requiring it to (1) evaluate the implementation of minority teacher recruitment and retention programs and state and local efforts and (2) analyze their effectiveness.

The bill allows the task force to consult with the State Department of Education (SDE) and the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council while conducting the study, which it must submit along with recommendations for legislation to the Education Committee by January 1, 2023.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 1 — NEW TASK FORCE STUDY

The bill requires the Task Force to Diversify the Educator Workforce’s new study to include at least the following:

1. a review of prior MTR legislation, including PA 18-34, PA 19-74, PA 19-117, and PA 21-2, June Special Session;
2. an evaluation of the programs and policies in that legislation, specifically their implementation and outcomes;

3. an assessment of whether the goal in state law for school boards to hire at least 250 new minority teachers and administrators annually, of which at least 30% are men, is being realized and the strategies and resources being used to meet that goal; and
4. an analysis of any other MTR issue.

BACKGROUND

Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force

Under existing law, this 13-member task force must study and develop strategies to increase and improve the recruitment, preparation, and retention of minority teachers in Connecticut public schools. Specifically, it must study the causes of the minority teacher shortage, current statewide and district demographics, and best practices (CGS § 10-156aa).

Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy Oversight Council

This council within SDE advises the education commissioner on various minority teacher recruitment and retention methods, including high school, college, and interstate recruitment (CGS § 10-156bb).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/25/2022)