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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6882**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes the following changes to the state's education laws:

1. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to biennially review the state's education laws and regulations to identify obsolete and duplicative mandates on the department and boards of education and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature (§ 1);
2. establishes an 11-member Education Mandates Review Task Force to review mandates on SDE and boards of education in the state's statutes and regulations and federal law and report its findings and recommendations to the legislature (§ 2);
3. eliminates the requirement that high school students graduating in 2023 and after complete at least one credit in a mastery-based diploma assessment (i.e., capstone project), but allows boards of education to make this a part of their high school graduation requirements (§ 4);
4. requires the in-service training on school violence prevention, which boards of education must annually provide to teachers, administrators, and other certified school employees, be aligned with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's (DESPP) school security and safety plan standards (§ 3; see BACKGROUND); and
5. makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023, except the high school graduation requirement change is effective upon passage.

## § 1 — BIENNIAL REVIEW OF EDUCATION MANDATES

Under the bill, SDE must develop a biennial review process to examine the state’s education laws and regulations and identify obsolete or duplicative mandates on SDE and local and regional boards of education. In doing this review, SDE may provide an opportunity for public comment or ask for input from students, parents, educators, boards of education, and other education stakeholders. The commissioner must biennially report on this review to the Education Committee, starting by January 1, 2024, and include recommendations for repealing and revising these obsolete or duplicative mandates.

## § 2 — EDUCATION MANDATES REVIEW TASK FORCE

### ***Charge***

Under the bill, the Education Mandates Review Task Force must identify mandates that are overly burdensome or limit or restrict providing student instruction or services. For each mandate identified, it must give a detailed analysis and indicate the specific statutory or regulatory citation and how it is imposed on the department or board. It may also recommend that any of these statutes or regulations be changed.

### ***Membership***

The task force’s membership includes the education commissioner, or designee; chairpersons and ranking members of the Education Committee, and the six members appointed by the legislative leaders, as shown in the following table.

**Table: Education Mandates Review Task Force Appointees**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Required Qualifications</i></b>
House speaker	Connecticut Association of Boards of Education representative
Senate president pro tempore	Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents representative
House majority leader	Connecticut Education Association representative
Senate majority leader	American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut representative
House minority leader	Connecticut Association of Schools representative
Senate minority leader	Connecticut Association of School Business Officials representative

The legislative leaders must make their initial appointments by July 31, 2023, and fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons from the members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold the first meeting no later than August 30, 2023.

***Reporting Requirement and Staff***

The task force must submit its review, analysis, and recommendations to the Education Committee by February 1, 2024. The task force terminates on the day it submits these findings or on July 1, 2024, whichever is later. The Education Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the task force’s administrative staff.

**BACKGROUND**

***School Security and Safety Plans***

The law requires DESPP, in consultation with SDE, to develop standards for school security and safety plans and reevaluate and update them every three years. SDE must distribute these standards to all public schools. Each board of education must annually develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school within its district based on these standards (CGS §§ 10-222n & -222m).

***Related Bill***

SB 1165 (File 257), favorably reported by the Education Committee, adds a half-credit of personal financial management and financial literacy to the high school graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2027.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/24/2023)