

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 6879**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 6351

AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2023*):

4 (f) [An] (1) On and after July 1, 2023, an endorsement [issued prior to
5 July 1, 2013,] to teach elementary education [grades one to six,
6 inclusive,] shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive. [, and
7 for such an endorsement issued on or after July 1, 2013, the endorsement
8 shall be valid for grades one to six, inclusive, except such an
9 endorsement issued between July 1, 2013, and July 1, 2017, to any
10 student who was admitted to and successfully completes a teacher
11 preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a, in the certification
12 endorsement area of elementary education on or before June 30, 2017,
13 shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six, inclusive. The
14 Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the request of a
15 superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement issued on or
16 after July 1, 2017, to teach kindergarten for one school year. The
17 commissioner shall not permit any such person who so taught
18 kindergarten under such endorsement for one school year to teach
19 kindergarten again, except the commissioner may permit such person
20 to so teach kindergarten for one additional school year if such person
21 can demonstrate that he or she is enrolled in a program to meet the
22 requirements for the appropriate endorsement to teach kindergarten.]
23 Any endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2023, to teach elementary

24 education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for grades
25 kindergarten to six, inclusive.

26 (2) An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education grades
27 one to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades kindergarten to twelve,
28 inclusive, provided, on and after September 1, 2013, any [(1)] (A)
29 certified employee applying for a comprehensive special education
30 endorsement, or [(2)] (B) applicant for an initial, provisional or
31 professional educator certificate and a comprehensive special education
32 endorsement shall achieve a satisfactory score on the reading instruction
33 examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009,
34 or a comparable reading instruction examination with minimum
35 standards that are equivalent to the examination approved by the State
36 Board of Education on April 1, 2009.

37 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established the Commission
38 to Modernize the Educator Workforce. The commission shall be
39 responsible for conducting a review and analysis of current statutes and
40 regulations governing educator preparation programs and certification
41 in accordance with the principles described in subsection (e) of this
42 section, and making recommendations regarding educator preparation
43 programs and certification in accordance with the provisions of
44 subsection (f) of this section.

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

46 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
47 who shall be a representative of the Columbia University Center for
48 Public Research and Leadership;

49 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
50 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School
51 Superintendents;

52 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
53 Representatives, who shall be a representative from the Connecticut

54 Education Association;

55 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
56 a representative from the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut
57 who is an educator in a classroom employed by a local or regional board
58 of education;

59 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
60 Representatives, who shall be a representative from an educator
61 preparation program offered at a public or independent institution of
62 higher education in the state;

63 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
64 a representative from an alternate route to certification program in the
65 state;

66 (7) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
67 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
68 relating to education;

69 (8) One appointed by the Governor, who shall be a representative
70 from the Governor's Workforce Council, established pursuant to section
71 31-3h of the general statutes;

72 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

73 (10) A member of the State Board of Education, designated by the
74 state board;

75 (11) A representative of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Policy
76 Oversight Council, designated by the council; and

77 (12) Up to four appointed by the chairperson of the commission, who
78 may be an in-service or preservice teacher, administrator or person with
79 expertise or experience in educator preparation or certification.

80 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
81 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall

82 be filled by the appointing authority not later than ten days after such
83 vacancy occurs.

84 (d) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee,
85 shall serve as the chairperson of the commission. The chairperson shall
86 schedule all meetings of the commission, including the first meeting of
87 the commission, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the
88 effective date of this section.

89 (e) While conducting a review and analysis of current statutes and
90 regulations governing educator preparation programs and educator
91 certification, the commission shall be guided by the following
92 principles: (1) Avoidance of requirements that are overly broad or
93 burdensome, including a consideration of whether the intended
94 regulatory objectives may be obtained through less burdensome,
95 nonregulatory means; (2) consideration of a requirement's costs and
96 benefits, including an analysis of (A) existing research concerning how
97 predictive each of the current requirements are with respect to
98 classroom effectiveness, (B) lessons from stakeholders' experiences with
99 the current requirements, and (C) the effect that current requirements
100 have on educator supply and efforts to increase educator diversity; (3)
101 reduction of instances in which requirements pose a barrier to
102 workforce mobility; and (4) commitment to developing requirements
103 that are based on existing research findings.

104 (f) The commission shall develop recommendations regarding new
105 requirements for educator preparation programs and certification. Such
106 recommendations shall be developed following input from school
107 district leaders, educators, preservice teachers and other state-wide
108 education stakeholders. Such recommendations include, but need not
109 be limited to, (1) streamlined, flexible pathways into the educator
110 profession that are grounded in commitment to educator effectiveness,
111 (2) ways to enable in-service educators to broaden their scope of practice
112 to meet more students' needs, (3) a means by which educator
113 preparation programs are held accountable for both the quality of

114 training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) the creation of a
115 robust system to help in-service educators continuously improve their
116 practice by supporting and rewarding educators who demonstrate
117 mastery, (5) ways to support improved data transparency regarding the
118 state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies, and
119 accountability for remedying observed inequities, and (6) a system in
120 which educators are treated as professionals and lifelong learners who
121 deserve and require access to high-quality professional learning and
122 mentorship throughout their careers.

123 (g) The commission may submit written requests to the Department
124 of Education for data and information that is relevant to the
125 responsibilities of the commission. Not later than fifteen days after
126 receipt of such request, the department shall provide such information
127 to the commission and shall not withhold such data and information
128 unless the provision of such data or information would violate any state
129 or federal laws governing privacy.

130 (h) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
131 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
132 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

133 (i) Not later than February 1, 2024, the commission shall submit a
134 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
135 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
136 relating to education and higher education, in accordance with the
137 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The commission shall
138 terminate on July 1, 2024.

139 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,
140 the Office of Higher Education shall, utilizing existing resources, (1)
141 expand the existing alternate route to certification program
142 administered by the office pursuant to section 10a-168a of the general
143 statutes, and (2) hire one full-time permanent employee to administer
144 said program.

145 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145n of the general statutes is
146 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
147 *2023*):

148 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this section, the State
149 Board of Education, upon the request of a local or regional board of
150 education or a regional educational service center, may issue an adjunct
151 instructor permit to any applicant with specialized training, experience
152 or expertise in the arts, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10-16b.
153 Such permit shall authorize a person to hold a part-time position, of no
154 more than fifteen classroom instructional hours per week at a part-time
155 interdistrict arts magnet high school in existence on July 1, 2009, and
156 approved pursuant to section 10-264~~l~~ or the Cooperative Arts and
157 Humanities Magnet High School, as a teacher of art, music, dance,
158 theater or any other subject related to such holder's artistic specialty.
159 Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, such applicant shall
160 (1) hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an institution of higher
161 education accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
162 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) have a
163 minimum of three years of work experience in the arts, or one year of
164 work experience and two years of specialized schooling related to such
165 applicant's artistic specialty, and (3) attest to the State Board of
166 Education that he or she has at least one hundred eighty hours of
167 cumulative experience working with children, in a private or public
168 setting, including, but not limited to, after school programs, group
169 lessons, children's theater, dance studio lessons and artist-in-residence
170 programs, or at least two years experience as a full-time faculty member
171 at an institution of higher education.

172 Sec. 5. Subsection (i) of section 10-145a of the general statutes is
173 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
174 *2023*):

175 (i) On and after July 1, [2016] 2023, any program of teacher
176 preparation leading to professional certification shall require, as part of

177 the curriculum, clinical experience, field experience or student teaching
178 experience in a classroom during four semesters of such program of
179 teacher preparation. [Such clinical experience, field experience or
180 student teaching experience shall occur: (1) In a school district that has
181 been categorized by the Department of Education as District Reference
182 Group A, B, C, D or E, and (2) in a school district that has been
183 categorized by the department as District Reference Group F, G, H or I.]
184 Such clinical experience, field experience or student teaching experience
185 may include a cooperating teacher serving as a mentor to student
186 teachers, provided such cooperating teacher has received a performance
187 evaluation designation of exemplary or proficient, pursuant to section
188 10-151b, for the prior school year.

189 Sec. 6. Subsection (f) of section 10-145d of the general statutes is
190 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
191 *2023*):

192 (f) An endorsement issued prior to July 1, 2013, to teach elementary
193 education grades one to six, inclusive, shall be valid for grades
194 kindergarten to six, inclusive, and for such an endorsement issued on or
195 after July 1, 2013, the endorsement shall be valid for grades one to six,
196 inclusive, except such an endorsement issued between July 1, 2013, and
197 July 1, 2017, to any student who was admitted to and successfully
198 completes a teacher preparation program, as defined in section 10-10a,
199 in the certification endorsement area of elementary education on or
200 before June 30, 2017, shall be valid for grades kindergarten to six,
201 inclusive. The Commissioner of Education may permit, upon the
202 request of a superintendent, any person who holds such endorsement
203 issued on or after July 1, 2017, to teach kindergarten for one school year.
204 The commissioner shall not permit any such person who so taught
205 kindergarten under such endorsement for one school year to teach
206 kindergarten again, except the commissioner may permit such person
207 to so teach kindergarten for one additional school year if such person
208 can demonstrate that he or she is enrolled in a program to meet the
209 requirements for the appropriate endorsement to teach kindergarten.

210 An endorsement to teach comprehensive special education grades one
211 to twelve, inclusive, shall be valid for grades [kindergarten]
212 prekindergarten to twelve, inclusive, [, provided, on] On and after
213 September 1, 2013, any (1) certified employee applying for a
214 comprehensive special education endorsement, or (2) applicant for an
215 initial, provisional or professional educator certificate and a
216 comprehensive special education endorsement shall achieve a
217 satisfactory score on the reading instruction examination approved by
218 the State Board of Education on April 1, 2009, or a comparable reading
219 instruction examination with minimum standards that are equivalent to
220 the examination approved by the State Board of Education on April 1,
221 2009.

222 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) On and after July 1, 2023, a
223 coaching permit issued by the State Board of Education shall be valid
224 for a period of five years. Any person who has been issued a coaching
225 permit may apply to the state board for renewal of such coaching
226 permit, except such person shall not be required to include in any
227 renewal application a verification of the completion of fifteen clock
228 hours of continuing education units.

229 Sec. 8. Section 10-8c of the general statutes is repealed and the
230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

231 The Department of Education, in cooperation with the Office of
232 Higher Education, shall, within available appropriations, (1) establish
233 an accelerated cross endorsement process for each subject shortage area
234 pursuant to section 10-8b to allow certified teachers to add a new
235 endorsement to their certificates, [and] (2) establish a program for
236 formerly certified teachers to regain certification, and (3) on and after
237 July 1, 2023, authorize the Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed.,
238 Birth-Kindergarten endorsement and the Integrated Early
239 Childhood/Elementary Education N-3 and Special Education N-K
240 endorsement to be added as a cross endorsement in lieu of requiring full
241 planned program and institutional recommendation.

242 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 10-145 of the general statutes is
243 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
244 *2023*):

245 (a) No teacher, supervisor, administrator, special service staff
246 member or school superintendent, except as provided for in section 10-
247 157, shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional
248 board of education unless such person possesses an appropriate state
249 certificate, nor shall any such person be entitled to any salary unless
250 such person can produce such certificate dated prior to or on the first
251 day of employment, except as provided for in section 10-157; provided
252 nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the board of
253 education from prescribing qualifications additional to those prescribed
254 by the regulations of the State Board of Education and provided nothing
255 in this subsection shall be construed to prevent any local or regional
256 board of education from contracting with a licensed drivers' school
257 approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for the behind-the-
258 wheel instruction of a driver instruction course, to be given by driving
259 instructors licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles. No person
260 shall be employed in any of the schools of any local or regional board of
261 education as a substitute teacher unless such person (1) holds a
262 bachelor's degree, provided the Commissioner of Education may waive
263 such requirement for good cause upon the request of a superintendent
264 of schools, and (2) is on a list maintained by the local or regional board
265 of education pursuant to subsection (f) of section 10-222c. A local or
266 regional board of education may employ a person as a substitute teacher
267 in the same assignment without a substitute authorization issued by the
268 Department of Education for a period not to exceed sixty school days.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145d(f)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145n(a)

Proposed Substitute Bill No. 6879

Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145a(i)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145d(f)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-8c
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-145(a)