



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

***Raised Bill No. 6879***

LCO No. 5414



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  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-  
57 Connecticut;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 (12) Up to four appointed by the chairperson of the commission, who

77 may be an in-service or preservice teacher, administrator or person with  
78 expertise or experience in educator preparation or certification.

79 (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later  
80 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall  
81 be filled by the appointing authority not later than ten days after such  
82 vacancy occurs.

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

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

103 (f) The commission shall develop recommendations regarding new  
104 requirements for educator preparation programs and certification. Such  
105 recommendations shall be developed following input from school  
106 district leaders, educators, preservice teachers and other state-wide  
107 education stakeholders. Such recommendations include, but need not  
108 be limited to, (1) streamlined, flexible pathways into the educator

109 profession that are grounded in commitment to educator effectiveness,  
110 (2) ways to enable in-service educators to broaden their scope of practice  
111 to meet more students' needs, (3) a means by which educator  
112 preparation programs are held accountable for both the quality of  
113 training experiences and outcomes for candidates, (4) the creation of a  
114 robust system to help in-service educators continuously improve their  
115 practice by supporting and rewarding educators who demonstrate  
116 mastery, (5) ways to support improved data transparency regarding the  
117 state's distribution of educators and educator vacancies, and  
118 accountability for remedying observed inequities, and (6) a system in  
119 which educators are treated as professionals and lifelong learners who  
120 deserve and require access to high-quality professional learning and  
121 mentorship throughout their careers.

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

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

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

138 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023,  
139 the Office of Higher Education shall, utilizing existing resources, (1)  
140 expand the existing alternate route to certification program

141 administered by the office pursuant to section 10a-168a of the general  
142 statutes, and (2) hire one full-time permanent employee to administer  
143 said program.

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

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

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)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To allow teachers with an elementary education endorsement to teach in grades kindergarten to six, inclusive; to establish the Commission to Modernize the Educator Workforce to review and make recommendations concerning educator preparation programs and certification; to expand the alternate route to certification program administered by the Office of Higher Education; and to allow a person with specialized training, experience or expertise in the arts to be issued an adjunct instructor permit if such person holds a bachelor's degree or higher.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*