



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 569

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5285

House of Representatives, April 21, 2022

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-16b of the 2022 supplement to the general
2 statutes, as amended by section 397 of public act 21-2 of the June special
3 session, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
4 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

5 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
6 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
7 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
8 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
9 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
10 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
11 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
12 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
13 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
14 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
15 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,

16 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
17 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
18 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
19 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
20 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
21 education; science, which [may] shall include the climate change
22 curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies,
23 including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography,
24 government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and
25 awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-
26 American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section
27 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the
28 provisions of section 10-16ss; computer programming instruction; and
29 in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world
30 languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies
31 course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-
32 16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include
33 American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a
34 qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a
35 certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this
36 subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,
37 which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre;
38 "reading" means evidenced-based instruction that focuses on
39 competency in the following areas of reading: Oral language, phonemic
40 awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, rapid automatic name or letter
41 name fluency and reading comprehension.

42 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
43 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
44 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
45 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
46 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

47 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
48 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
49 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of

50 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
51 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
52 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

53 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
54 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
55 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
56 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
57 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
58 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
59 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
60 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
61 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
62 American history; (6) personal financial management, including, but not
63 limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
64 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
65 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
66 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
67 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
68 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
69 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
70 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
71 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
72 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
73 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
74 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
75 inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
76 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the
77 development of curriculum on climate change as described in this
78 subsection.

79 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes,
80 as amended by section 376 of public act 21-2 of the June special session,
81 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
82 *1, 2023*):

83 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
84 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
85 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
86 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
87 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
88 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
89 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
90 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
91 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
92 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
93 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
94 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
95 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
96 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
97 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
98 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
99 education; science, which [may] shall include the climate change
100 curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies,
101 including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography,
102 government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and
103 awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-
104 American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section
105 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the
106 provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance
107 with the provisions of section 10-16vv; computer programming
108 instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more
109 world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies
110 course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-
111 16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include
112 American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a
113 qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a
114 certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this
115 subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,
116 which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

117 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take

118 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
119 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
120 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
121 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

122 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
123 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
124 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
125 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
126 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
127 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

128 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
129 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
130 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
131 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
132 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
133 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
134 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
135 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
136 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
137 American studies; (6) personal financial management, including, but
138 not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
139 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
140 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
141 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
142 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
143 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
144 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
145 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science
146 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
147 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
148 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
149 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
150 inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
151 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill requires rather than allows climate change to be included in the required public school curriculum. To the extent that a local and regional school district is not already including climate change, and would be required to produce additional materials, a minimal cost to the district could occur.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5285*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires, rather than allows, climate change to be taught as part of the science requirement in public schools' program of instruction. As under existing law, the curriculum must follow the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except a conforming change takes effect July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND***Next Generation Science Standards***

The NGSS are research-based science content standards for grades kindergarten to 12 adopted by SBE in 2015. The standards' foundational document provides that climate changes are significant and persistent changes in the average or extreme weather conditions of an area (National Research Council. 2012. A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - APP
 Yea 31 Nay 8 (03/11/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
 Yea 35 Nay 13 (04/07/2022)