



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 129

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5287

House of Representatives, March 28, 2022

The Committee on Education reported through REP. SANCHEZ, R. of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE LEARNING IN CONNECTICUT.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-4w of the 2022 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

4 (a) As used in this section, "remote learning" means instruction by
5 means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a
6 remote learning model.

7 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Education
8 shall develop, and update as necessary, standards for remote learning.
9 [The standards shall not be deemed to be regulations, as defined in
10 section 4-166.]

11 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2022, [and each school year
12 thereafter,] a local or regional board of education may authorize remote
13 learning to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, provided such

14 board (1) provides such instruction in compliance with the standards
 15 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and (2) adopts a
 16 policy regarding the requirements for student attendance during remote
 17 learning, which shall (A) be in compliance with the Department of
 18 Education's guidance on student attendance during remote learning,
 19 and (B) count the attendance of any student who spends not less than
 20 one-half of the school day during such instruction engaged in (i) virtual
 21 classes, (ii) virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-logged electronic
 22 systems, and (iv) the completion and submission of assignments.

23 (d) For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year
 24 thereafter, a local or regional board of education may authorize remote
 25 learning to students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive,
 26 provided such board (1) provides such instruction in compliance with
 27 the standards developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and
 28 (2) adopts a policy regarding the requirements for student attendance
 29 during remote learning, which shall (A) be in compliance with the
 30 Department of Education's guidance on student attendance during
 31 remote learning, and (B) count the attendance of any student who
 32 spends not less than one-half of the school day during such instruction
 33 engaged in (i) virtual classes, (ii) virtual meetings, (iii) activities on time-
 34 logged electronic systems, and (iv) the completion and submission of
 35 assignments.

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2022 | 10-4w |

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Local and Regional School Districts | Cost | Potential | Potential |

Explanation

The bill allows, beginning with the 2023-24 school year, students in grades kindergarten through twelve to attend class on-line or as part of a remote learning model. This could result in a potential cost to local and regional school districts if additional virtual or on-line materials and equipment must be purchased to accommodate students opting to participate in a remote learning model. However, the bill is permissive, and local and regional school districts are not mandated to participate.

The Out Years

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

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5287

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE LEARNING IN CONNECTICUT.

SUMMARY

This bill permits local or regional boards of education to authorize remote learning for students in grades kindergarten to 12 beginning with the 2023-24 school year. Under current law, boards have the option to provide remote learning only for grades nine-12 beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

In order to provide remote learning in grades kindergarten to eight, the bill requires school districts to meet requirements in current law for high school remote learning. The districts must:

1. instruct in compliance with the standards developed by the education commissioner under existing law, and
2. adopt a policy on student attendance requirements during remote learning, which must (a) comply with the commissioner's guidance and (b) count attendance of any student who spends at least half of the day during virtual instruction engaged in virtual classes, virtual meetings, activities on time-logged electronic systems, and turning in assignments.

By law and unchanged by the bill, remote learning is defined as instruction by means of one or more Internet-based software platforms as part of a remote learning model.

The bill also removes a provision in current law that states the commissioner's remote learning standards must not be considered regulations. It also makes a conforming change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/11/2022)