



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5285

LCO No. 1839



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

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

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

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

42 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
43 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
44 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
45 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
46 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
47 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

48 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
49 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional

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

74 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes,
75 as amended by section 397 of public act 21-2 of the June special session,
76 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
77 *1, 2022*):

78 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
79 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
80 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
81 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
82 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
83 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-

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

115 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
116 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
117 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such

118 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
119 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

120 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
121 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
122 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
123 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
124 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
125 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

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

152 Sec. 3. Section 10-16b of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes,
153 as amended by section 376 of public act 21-2 of the June special session,
154 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
155 *1, 2023*):

156 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
157 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
158 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
159 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
160 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
161 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
162 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
163 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
164 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
165 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
166 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
167 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
168 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
169 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
170 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
171 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
172 education; science, which [may] shall include the climate change
173 curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies,
174 including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography,
175 government, history and Holocaust and genocide education and
176 awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f; African-
177 American and black studies in accordance with the provisions of section
178 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with the
179 provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in accordance
180 with the provisions of section 10-16vv; computer programming
181 instruction; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more
182 world languages; vocational education; and the black and Latino studies
183 course in accordance with the provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-
184 16uu. For purposes of this subsection, world languages shall include
185 American Sign Language, provided such subject matter is taught by a

186 qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a
187 certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this
188 subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts,
189 which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

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

195 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
196 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
197 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
198 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
199 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
200 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

201 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
202 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
203 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
204 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
205 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist
206 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
207 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
208 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
209 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
210 American studies; (6) personal financial management, including, but
211 not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under
212 section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the
213 use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law,
214 including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing
215 legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free
216 market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and
217 capitalism in the development of the American and world economies;
218 (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science

219 Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of
220 local or regional boards of education as part of the program of
221 instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11)
222 instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61,
223 inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
224 shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the
225 development of curriculum on climate change as described in this
226 subsection.

227 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2022*) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2023,
228 and June 30, 2024, there is established a personal financial management
229 pilot program to be administered by the Capitol Region Education
230 Council. The council shall assist member school districts in the provision
231 of personal financial management instruction using the curriculum
232 materials made available by the State Board of Education, pursuant to
233 subsection (d) of section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by
234 this act, during the school year commencing July 1, 2022. Such assistance
235 by the council may include, but need not be limited to, the collection and
236 dissemination of curriculum materials, as developed in the plan
237 provided under section 10-16pp of the general statutes, and the use of
238 advisors who have expertise in personal financial management and who
239 can provide assistance to teachers in such personal financial
240 management instruction in classrooms. For purposes of this section,
241 "member school districts" means those local and regional boards of
242 education that are members of the Capitol Region Education Council.

243 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the Connecticut
244 Civics Education Task Force to study and develop strategies to improve
245 how public schools provide instruction on civics, citizenship and
246 American government to students. Such study shall include, but need
247 not be limited to (1) reviewing existing curricula and the high school
248 graduation requirements, (2) receiving recommendations from
249 educators, administrators and the public, (3) a review of best practices,
250 and (4) exploring the feasibility of establishing public and private
251 partnerships to fund and support enhancements to such instruction.

- 252 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 253 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, at
254 least one of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;
- 255 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, at least
256 one of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;
- 257 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
258 Representatives;
- 259 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 260 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
261 Representatives, at least one of whom is a certified teacher or school
262 administrator;
- 263 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, at least one
264 of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;
- 265 (7) One appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
266 Caucus of the General Assembly;
- 267 (8) One appointed by the Governor;
- 268 (9) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;
- 269 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 270 (11) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or the chief justice's
271 designee; and
- 272 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
273 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.
- 274 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
275 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
276 of the General Assembly.
- 277 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later

278 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
279 be filled by the appointing authority.

280 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
281 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
282 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
283 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
284 days after the effective date of this section.

285 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
286 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
287 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

288 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
289 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
290 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
291 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
292 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on January 1, 2026.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-16b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-16b
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-16b
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require that all school districts provide climate change instruction as part of the science curriculum, to establish a pilot program for the teaching of financial literacy and to establish the Connecticut Civics Education Task Force.

[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.]