

Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1164
AN ACT CONCERNING A REVIEW OF THE REGULATIONS RELATING TO
Title: EDUCATION.
Vote Date: 3/10/2023
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 3/8/2023
File No.: 256

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Education Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to submit a review of its regulations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2024. It also allows SDE to propose, by October 1, 2023, an alternate deadline or a schedule of staggered deadlines by subject matter. Any of these proposals would be subject to the approval of the Education Committee Chairs.

Many state regulations relating to education, particularly those regarding teacher certification, have not been updated or revisited in decades. This proposed review by SDE will help pinpoint regulation improvements to enhance teacher recruitment and the certification process.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State Department of Education (SDE), Commissioner, Charlene Russell-Tucker; expresses their commitment to modernizing Connecticut's certification regulations. However, they request that the legislation be modified to clarify that the required review shall specifically be limited to certification regulations. They also note that SDE has already started to examine statutes and regulations regarding teacher certification, as they were charged pursuant to previously passed legislation. They are identifying obsolete provisions within these regulations, which could be immediately repealed to remove barriers and streamline the certification process.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education – Connecticut Chapter (AACTE-CT), President, Katherine Roe; supports this bill stating that state education regulations should be updated, especially those relating to educator preparation programs. They note that the organization is currently assisting SDE with determining which existing regulations should be reconsidered, with the goal of improving the recruitment and retention of high-quality educator candidates.

ReadyCT, Executive Director, Shannon Marimon; supports this bill stating that educator recruitment is a dire need for the state and should be a priority for the committee. They also note that educator candidates in Connecticut are currently operating under rules and regulations that have not been updated in over two decades – before some of them were even born.

ConnCAN, Executive Director, Subira Gordon; supports this bill stating that current educator certification regulations are outdated and could better align with changes to the education sector.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Debbie Esposito; submitted testimony in opposition to this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF GENERAL COMMENT:

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), Executive Director, Fran Rabinowitz; does not explicitly state opposition to this bill but suggests that SDE also examine potential future regulation actions during the review, such as eliminating those that impede the recruitment of high-quality and diverse educators. They also note that SDE should explore updating regulations to current laws and removing any existing redundancies. Finally, they recommend creating a knowledgeable advisory team that is managed by a skilled facilitator to assist SDE with the review.

Reported by: Taha Anwar

Date: 3/14/2023