



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5446

LCO No. 2667



Referred to Committee on APPROPRIATIONS

Introduced by:
(APP)

AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS' DISABILITY AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND PARAEducATORS' SALARY AND RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The chief administrative officer of
2 the teachers' retirement system, in consultation with the president of the
3 Connecticut Education Association and the president of AFT
4 Connecticut, shall study the feasibility of making changes to teachers'
5 disability and retirement benefits to permit (1) retired teachers to be
6 reemployed full-time by local and regional boards of education without
7 the salary from such employment being included in such teachers'
8 pension calculations, and (2) retroactive application of disability
9 benefits so that former teachers are able to apply for and receive a
10 disability allowance after leaving employment as a teacher, provided
11 the disabling condition began when the former teacher was actively
12 employed.

13 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the chief administrative officer
14 shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the

15 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
16 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and
17 the budgets of state agencies on the results of the study. Such report
18 shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A potential timeline for
19 implementing such benefit changes; (2) the approximate cost of such
20 benefit changes; (3) a description of the resources needed to implement
21 such benefit changes; and (4) a description of any potential barriers to
22 implementing such benefit changes.

23 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) Any collective bargaining
24 agreement entered into, amended or extended on or after July 1, 2026,
25 between a local or regional board of education and the representatives
26 of the exclusive bargaining unit for paraeducators shall establish a
27 minimum salary for a full-time paraeducator that is not less than forty-
28 five thousand dollars annually.

29 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
30 2028, and annually thereafter, the Office of Policy and Management
31 shall provide a subsidy to each local or regional board of education in
32 an amount equal to the difference between the annual salary, as of July
33 1, 2026, of a paraeducator employed by such board on said date and the
34 minimum salary required pursuant to section 2 of this act for each
35 paraeducator employed by such board of education. Any such subsidy
36 provided to a local or regional board of education under this section
37 shall not be combined with any other state grant provided to local or
38 regional boards of education under any provision of the general
39 statutes.

40 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Notwithstanding any
41 provision of the general statutes, each local and regional board of
42 education shall pay for each paraeducator employed by such board the
43 employee contribution required pursuant to the municipal employees'
44 retirement system or any other retirement system in which such board
45 participates, provided such payment shall not exceed the amount of the
46 employee contribution required pursuant to the municipal employees'

47 retirement system. Any amount of a required employee contribution to
48 a retirement system that exceeds the amount paid by such board
49 pursuant to this subsection shall be paid by the paraeducator.

50 (b) The Comptroller shall annually pay to each local or regional board
51 of education not less than fifty per cent of the cost to such board for the
52 payment of the employee contribution for retirement benefits pursuant
53 to subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) require the Teachers' Retirement Board to study changes in teachers' disability and retirement benefits, (2) establish a minimum salary for paraeducators, (3) require the Office of Policy and Management to provide stipends for the difference between the current and required minimum salary for paraeducators, and (4) require boards of education to pay paraeducator employee contributions to the municipal retirement system or any other retirement system in which such board participates.

[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.]