



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 138

LCO No. 1153



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-66bb of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (b) Any not-for-profit organization that is exempt from taxation
5 under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any
6 subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States,
7 as amended from time to time, public or independent institution of
8 higher education, local or regional board of education or two or more
9 boards of education cooperatively, or regional educational service
10 center may apply to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and
11 in such manner as the commissioner prescribes, to obtain an initial
12 certificate of approval for a charter, provided no nonpublic elementary
13 or secondary school may be established as a charter school and no
14 parent or group of parents providing home instruction may establish a
15 charter school for such instruction. For the biennium beginning July 1,

16 2027, and each biennium thereafter, the Commissioner of Education
17 shall ensure that the timing for granting initial certificates of approval
18 for charters shall coincide with the preparation of the state budget for
19 such biennium.

20 (c) On and after July 1, 2015, the State Board of Education shall review
21 [annually,] all applications and grant initial certificates of approval for
22 charters, in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of this section, for a
23 local or state charter school located in a town that has one or more
24 schools that have been designated as a commissioner's network school,
25 pursuant to section 10-223h, as amended by this act, at the time of such
26 application, or a town that has been designated as a low achieving
27 school district, pursuant to section 10-223e, at the time of such
28 application. (1) Except as provided for in subdivision (2) of this
29 subsection, no state charter school shall enroll (A) (i) more than two
30 hundred fifty students, or (ii) in the case of a kindergarten to grade eight,
31 inclusive, school, more than three hundred students, or (B) twenty-five
32 per cent of the enrollment of the school district in which the state charter
33 school is to be located, whichever is less. (2) In the case of a state charter
34 school found by the State Board of Education to have a demonstrated
35 record of achievement, said board shall, upon application by such
36 school to said board, waive the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
37 subsection for such school. (3) The State Board of Education shall give
38 preference to applicants for charter schools (A) whose primary purpose
39 is the establishment of education programs designed to serve one or
40 more of the following student populations: (i) Students with a history of
41 low academic performance, (ii) students who receive free or reduced
42 priced lunches pursuant to federal law and regulations, (iii) students
43 with a history of behavioral and social difficulties, (iv) students
44 identified as requiring special education, (v) students who are
45 multilingual learners, or (vi) students of a single gender; (B) whose
46 primary purpose is to improve the academic performance of an existing
47 school that has consistently demonstrated substandard academic
48 performance, as determined by the Commissioner of Education; (C) that

49 will serve students who reside in a priority school district pursuant to
50 section 10-266p; (D) that will serve students who reside in a district in
51 which seventy-five per cent or more of the enrolled students are
52 members of racial or ethnic minorities; (E) that demonstrate highly
53 credible and specific strategies to attract, enroll and retain students from
54 among the populations described in subparagraph (A)(i) to (A)(vi),
55 inclusive, of this subdivision; or (F) that, in the case of an applicant for
56 a state charter school, such state charter school will be located at a work-
57 site or such applicant is an institution of higher education. In
58 determining whether to grant an initial certificate of approval for a
59 charter, the State Board of Education shall consider (i) the effect of the
60 proposed charter school on (I) the reduction of racial, ethnic and
61 economic isolation in the region in which it is to be located, (II) the
62 regional distribution of charter schools in the state, (III) the potential of
63 over-concentration of charter schools within a school district or in
64 contiguous school districts, and (IV) the state's efforts to close
65 achievement gaps, as defined in section 10-1600, and (ii) the comments
66 made at a public hearing conducted pursuant to subdivision (2) of
67 subsection (e) of this section or subparagraph (B)(ii) of subdivision (1)
68 of subsection (f) of this section.

69 Sec. 2. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the
70 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

71 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age
72 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of
73 any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised
74 by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to
75 participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in
76 such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to
77 participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without
78 discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color,
79 sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual
80 orientation or disability; provided a child who has not reached the age
81 of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be

82 admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early
83 admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a
84 written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal
85 of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following
86 an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an
87 appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that
88 admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.

89 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend
90 other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula,
91 facilities or extracurricular activities.

92 Sec. 3. Section 10-15c of the general statutes, as amended by section 2
93 of this act, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
94 (*Effective July 1, 2027*):

95 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age
96 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of
97 any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised
98 by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to
99 participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in
100 such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to
101 participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without
102 discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color,
103 sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual
104 orientation or disability. [; provided a child who has not reached the age
105 of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be
106 admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early
107 admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a
108 written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal
109 of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following
110 an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an
111 appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that
112 admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.]

113 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend
114 other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula,
115 facilities or extracurricular activities.

116 Sec. 4. Subdivision (2) of subsection (h) of section 10-264l of the 2026
117 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
118 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

119 (2) In the case of a student with a plan pursuant to Section 504 of the
120 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended from time to time, the [school
121 district in which the student resides shall pay the interdistrict magnet
122 school an amount equal to the difference between the reasonable cost of
123 educating such student and the sum of the amount received by the
124 interdistrict magnet school for such student pursuant to subsection (c)
125 of this section and amounts received from other state, federal, local or
126 private sources calculated on a per pupil basis. If a student with a plan
127 pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
128 from time to time, attends an interdistrict magnet school on a full-time
129 basis, such] interdistrict magnet school shall [be responsible for
130 ensuring] (A) ensure that such student receives the services mandated
131 by the student's plan, [whether such services are provided by the
132 interdistrict magnet school or by the school district in which the student
133 resides] and (B) pay for the costs of providing such services to such
134 student.

135 Sec. 5. Section 10-252a of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
136 is amended by adding subsection (e) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

137 (NEW) (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal
138 year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall approve any
139 increase from the prior fiscal year in the total number of students
140 enrolled in any interdistrict magnet school program.

141 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (i) of section 10-266aa of the 2026
142 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
143 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

144 (i) (1) In the case of an out-of-district student who requires special
145 education and related services, the sending district shall (A) hold the
146 planning and placement team meeting for such student and shall invite
147 representatives from the receiving district to participate in such
148 meeting, and (B) pay the receiving district an amount equal to the
149 difference between the reasonable cost of providing such special
150 education and related services to such student and the amount received
151 by the receiving district pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and in
152 the case of students participating pursuant to subsection (d) of this
153 section, the per pupil amount received pursuant to section 10-74d. The
154 sending district shall be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to section
155 10-76g. The receiving district shall [(A) hold the planning and placement
156 team meeting for each out-of-district student who requires special
157 education and related services and invite representatives from the
158 sending district to participate in such meeting, and (B)] ensure that such
159 students receive the services mandated by the student's individualized
160 education program whether such services are provided by the sending
161 district or the receiving district.

162 Sec. 7. Subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 10-264i of the 2026
163 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
164 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

165 (4) Any transportation grant provided to a regional educational
166 service center pursuant to subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be
167 provided upon a comprehensive financial review, by an auditor selected
168 by the Commissioner of Education, the costs of such review may be paid
169 from funds that are part of such transportation grant. For the fiscal year
170 ending June 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, any such
171 transportation grant shall be paid as follows: Up to ninety-five per cent
172 of the grant on or before June thirtieth of the fiscal year based on
173 documentation provided prior to May thirty-first of the fiscal year, with
174 an amount [equal to] not greater than one-half of the total estimated
175 transportation cost on or before October thirty-first of the fiscal year,
176 and the remaining total balance paid in increments on or before March

177 first of the following fiscal year upon completion of the comprehensive
178 financial review. If, upon completion of the comprehensive financial
179 review, the commissioner determines there was an overpayment of the
180 grant in the prior fiscal year, such funds shall be refunded to the
181 department.

182 Sec. 8. Section 10-66q of the general statutes is repealed and the
183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

184 (a) Not later than April 1, 2014, each regional educational service
185 center shall develop a uniform regional school calendar that may be
186 adopted by each local or regional board of education in the area served
187 by such regional educational service center, in accordance with the
188 provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such uniform regional school
189 calendars shall be consistent with the guidelines for a uniform regional
190 school calendar developed pursuant to section 321 of public act 13-247.
191 Not later than April 1, 2014, each regional educational service center
192 shall submit such uniform regional school calendar to the State Board of
193 Education for approval. Not later than five days after such approval,
194 such regional educational service center shall submit such approved
195 uniform regional school calendar to the joint standing committee of the
196 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
197 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

198 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2017, and each school year
199 thereafter, a local or regional board of education may adopt the uniform
200 regional school calendar developed and approved pursuant to
201 subsection (a) of this section.

202 [(c) Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
203 Commissioner of Education shall submit a report on which boards of
204 education have adopted the uniform regional school calendar and the
205 implementation of such uniform regional school calendars, pursuant to
206 subsection (b) of this section, and any recommendations for legislation
207 relating to such implementation to the joint standing committee of the

208 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
209 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.]

210 Sec. 9. Section 10-94l of the general statutes is repealed and the
211 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

212 [(a)] The Commissioner of Education shall administer, within
213 available appropriations and in consultation with the Commissioner of
214 Children and Families, a surrogate parent program. The Commissioner
215 of Children and Families shall select any foster child, as defined in
216 section 17a-110, who resides in the area identified as Region 3 by the
217 Department of Children and Families for participation in the program,
218 and the Commissioner of Education shall appoint a surrogate parent for
219 such child. The surrogate parent shall represent the foster child in the
220 educational decision-making process, provided the parent or guardian
221 of the foster child: (1) Agrees or fails to object to the appointment of a
222 surrogate parent; (2) receives identical notices as the surrogate parent;
223 and (3) may revoke the appointment of a surrogate parent at any time.

224 [(b)] Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
225 Commissioners of Education and Children and Families shall jointly
226 submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing
227 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
228 relating to children and education on the surrogate parent program.]

229 Sec. 10. Subsections (i) and (j) of section 10-223h of the 2026
230 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
231 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

232 [(i)] Not later than thirty days after the approval of the turnaround
233 plan for a school selected to participate in the commissioner's network
234 of schools by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of
235 Education shall submit the operations and instructional audit and the
236 turnaround plan for such school to the joint standing committee of the
237 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
238 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.]

239 [(j)] (i) (1) Not later than February 1, 2018, and annually thereafter,
240 the Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a report on the
241 academic performance of each school participating in the
242 commissioner's network of schools to the joint standing committee of
243 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
244 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a. Such
245 report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the accountability index
246 score, as defined in section 10-223e, for such school, (B) trends for the
247 accountability index scores during the period that such school is
248 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C) adjustments
249 for subgroups of students at such school, including, but not limited to,
250 students whose primary language is not English, students receiving
251 special education services and students who are eligible for free or
252 reduced price lunches, and (D) performance evaluation results in the
253 aggregate for teachers and administrators at such school.

254 [(2) Not later than February 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the
255 Commissioner of Education shall annually submit a report comparing
256 and analyzing the academic performance of all the schools participating
257 in the commissioner's network of schools to the joint standing
258 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
259 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.
260 Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (A) the accountability
261 index score, as defined in section 10-223e, for the school, (B) trends for
262 the accountability indices during the period that such schools are
263 participating in the commissioner's network of schools, (C) adjustments
264 for subgroups of students at such schools, including, but not limited to,
265 students whose primary language is not English, students receiving
266 special education services and students who are eligible for free or
267 reduced price lunches, and (D) performance evaluation results in the
268 aggregate for teachers and administrators at such schools.

269 (3) Not later than February first following the expiration of the
270 turnaround plan for each school participating in the commissioner's
271 network of schools, the commissioner shall submit a final report that (A)

272 evaluates such turnaround plan and the academic performance of such
273 school during the period that such turnaround plan was in effect, and
274 (B) makes recommendations for the operation of such school to the joint
275 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
276 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
277 section 11-4a.]

278 [(4)] (2) Not later than January 1, 2020, the commissioner shall submit
279 a report (A) evaluating the commissioner's network of schools and its
280 effect on improving student academic achievement in participating
281 schools, and (B) making any recommendations for the continued
282 operation of the commissioner's network of schools to the joint standing
283 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
284 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

285 [(5)] (3) Not later than February first each year, the Commissioner of
286 Education shall present the items submitted pursuant to subdivisions
287 (1) [to (4), inclusive,] (2) of this subsection to the joint standing
288 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
289 relating to education.

290 Sec. 11. Section 10-156bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
291 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

292 There is established an [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring
293 Educator Recruitment Policy Oversight Council within the Department
294 of Education. The council shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of
295 Education, or the commissioner's designee, (2) two representatives from
296 the Task Force to Diversify the Educator Workforce, established
297 pursuant to section 10-156aa, (3) one representative from each of the
298 exclusive bargaining units for certified employees, chosen pursuant to
299 section 10-153b, (4) the chancellor of the Connecticut State Colleges and
300 Universities, or the chancellor's designee, and (5) a representative from
301 an alternate route to certification program, appointed by the
302 Commissioner of Education. The council shall hold quarterly meetings

303 and advise, at least quarterly, the Commissioner of Education, or the
304 commissioner's designee, on ways to (A) encourage diverse students in
305 middle and secondary school to attend institutions of higher education
306 and enter teacher preparation programs, (B) recruit diverse students
307 attending institutions of higher education to enroll in teacher
308 preparation programs and pursue teaching careers, (C) recruit and
309 retain diverse educators in Connecticut schools, (D) recruit diverse
310 educators from other states to teach in Connecticut schools, and (E)
311 recruit diverse professionals in other fields to enter teaching. The
312 council shall report, annually, in accordance with the provisions of
313 section 11-4a, on the recommendations given to the commissioner, or
314 the commissioner's designee, pursuant to the provisions of this section,
315 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
316 cognizance of matters relating to education. For purposes of this section,
317 "diverse" means individuals [whose race is defined as other than white,
318 or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic or Latino by the federal Office
319 of Management and Budget for use by the Bureau of Census of the
320 United States Department of Commerce] who originate from different
321 socioeconomic, geographic, educational and professional backgrounds.

322 Sec. 12. Section 10-156cc of the general statutes is repealed and the
323 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

324 Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the Department
325 of Education shall submit a report using results-based accountability
326 measures to assess the effectiveness of [minority teacher recruitment]
327 aspiring educator recruitment programs in the state to the joint standing
328 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
329 relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the
330 provisions of section 11-4a. Such [minority teacher] aspiring educator
331 recruitment programs shall include, but not be limited to, any program
332 [administered] to attract middle and high school students to pursue
333 careers in education, enhanced reciprocity programs, higher education
334 scholarship programs and the registered teacher apprenticeship
335 program. Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the

336 department shall conduct a survey of students participating in such
337 aspiring educator recruitment programs administered by the
338 department. The department shall include information for aspiring
339 educator recruitment programs requested by a regional educational
340 service center pursuant to section 10-155l, and the minority teacher
341 incentive program administered by the Office of Higher Education
342 pursuant to section 10a-168a.

343 Sec. 13. Section 10-156ee of the general statutes is repealed and the
344 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

345 Not later than January 1, 2019, the Department of Education, in
346 consultation with the [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring
347 Educator Recruitment Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant
348 to section 10-156bb, as amended by this act, shall (1) identify relevant
349 research and successful practices to enhance recruitment of diverse
350 educators throughout the state, (2) identify and establish public, private
351 and philanthropic partnerships to increase recruitment of diverse
352 educators, (3) utilize, monitor and evaluate innovative methods to
353 attract diverse educator candidates to the teaching profession,
354 particularly in subject areas in which a teacher shortage exists, as
355 determined by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to section 10-
356 8b, (4) modernize the process for educators to obtain educator
357 certification under this chapter by eliminating obstacles to certification
358 to increase competitiveness with other states, (5) identify and utilize
359 high-quality, affordable and bias-free educator assessments, (6) adopt
360 cut scores for educator assessments, that do not exceed the multistate
361 cut scores, to increase competitiveness with surrounding states, (7)
362 support new and existing educator preparation programs that commit
363 to enrolling greater numbers of diverse educator candidates in a manner
364 that supports interstate reciprocity, (8) monitor, advise and support, and
365 intervene in when necessary, local and regional boards of education's
366 efforts to prioritize recruitment of diverse educators and develop
367 innovative strategies to attract and retain diverse educators within their
368 districts, (9) (A) on and after July 1, 2019, include a question regarding

369 the demographic data of applicants for positions requiring educator
370 certification in the department's annual hiring survey distributed to
371 local and regional boards of education, and (B) not later than July 1,
372 2020, and annually thereafter, submit a report, in accordance with the
373 provisions of section 11-4a, on the applicant demographic data collected
374 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision to the Task Force to
375 Diversify the Educator Workforce, established pursuant to section 10-
376 156aa, and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
377 having cognizance of matters relating to education, and (10) not later
378 than July 1, 2022, develop and make available, in consultation with the
379 State Education Resource Center, a video training module for school
380 district personnel involved in or responsible for hiring educators
381 relating to implicit bias and anti-bias in the hiring process. For purposes
382 of this section, "diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section
383 10-156bb, as amended by this act.

384 Sec. 14. Section 10-156ff of the general statutes is repealed and the
385 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

386 For the school year commencing July 1, 2020, and each school year
387 thereafter, the [Increasing Educator Diversity] Aspiring Educator
388 Recruitment Policy Oversight Council, established pursuant to section
389 10-156bb, as amended by this act, in consultation with the Task Force to
390 Diversify the Educator Workforce, established pursuant to section 10-
391 156aa, shall develop and implement strategies and utilize existing
392 resources to ensure that at least two hundred fifty new diverse teachers
393 and administrators, of which at least thirty per cent are men, are hired
394 and employed by local and regional boards of education each year in
395 the state. As used in this section, "diverse" has the same meaning as
396 provided in section 10-156bb, as amended by this act.

397 Sec. 15. Section 10-156jj of the general statutes is repealed and the
398 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

399 (a) Not later than [March 15, 2024] March 15, 2027, and biennially

400 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall submit the
401 [increasing educator diversity] two-year aspiring educator recruitment
402 plan described in subsection (a) of section 10-220 to the Commissioner
403 of Education for review and approval.

404 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall review each [increasing
405 educator diversity] aspiring educator recruitment plan submitted
406 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The commissioner may
407 approve such plan or may return such plan to the local or regional board
408 of education that submitted such plan with instructions to revise such
409 plan. [Not later than May 15, 2024, any such] Such board shall revise
410 such plan in accordance with such instructions and submit such revised
411 plan to the commissioner for approval.

412 (c) For the school year commencing [July 1, 2024] July 1, 2027, and
413 each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education
414 shall implement the [increasing educator diversity] aspiring educator
415 recruitment plan approved by the commissioner pursuant to subsection
416 (b) of this section. Each such board shall make such plan available on
417 the Internet web site of such board and shall submit such plan through
418 the Educator Data System maintained by the Department of Education.

419 (d) The Department of Education shall make each [increasing
420 educator diversity] aspiring educator recruitment plan available on the
421 Internet web site of the department.

422 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 10-43 of the general statutes is
423 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
424 *passage*):

425 (a) The committee shall, at least semiannually, make progress reports
426 to the participating towns and the State Board of Education in such
427 manner as the committee deems suitable. Upon completion of its study,
428 the committee shall present a written report of its findings and
429 recommendations to the State Board of Education and the town clerk of
430 each participating town. If the committee finds that establishment of the

431 proposed regional school district is inadvisable, its report shall include
432 such findings and an explanation of the reasons for its conclusions. If
433 the findings of the committee support the feasibility and desirability of
434 establishing a regional school district, its report shall contain (1) the
435 findings of the committee with respect to the advisability of establishing
436 a regional school district, (2) the towns to be included, (3) the grade
437 levels for which educational programs are to be provided, (4) detailed
438 educational and budget plans for at least a five-year period including
439 projections of enrollments, staff needs and deployment and a
440 description of all programs and supportive services planned for the
441 proposed regional school district, provided such budget plan shall,
442 when feasible, be reviewed or audited by an independent third party to
443 determine the viability of such budget plan, (5) the facilities
444 recommended, (6) estimates of the cost of land and facilities, (7) a
445 recommendation concerning the capital contribution of each
446 participating town based on appraisals or a negotiated valuation of
447 existing land and facilities owned and used by each town for public
448 elementary and secondary education which the committee recommends
449 be acquired for use by the proposed regional school district, together
450 with a plan for the transfer of such land and facilities, (8) a
451 recommendation concerning the size of the board of education to serve
452 the proposed regional school district and the representation of each
453 town thereon, (9) a consideration of transportation costs associated with
454 the establishment of such regional school district, and [(9)] (10) such
455 other matters as the committee deems pertinent. The capital
456 contribution of each participating town shall be in the same proportion
457 to the total purchase price or negotiated value of the property
458 transferred as the number of pupils in average daily membership of
459 such town as defined in section 10-261 for the school year preceding that
460 in which the plan is approved by the State Board of Education bears to
461 the total number of such pupils in the participating towns.

462 Sec. 17. Section 10-156ii of the general statutes is repealed and the
463 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

464 (a) There is established an aspiring educators diversity scholarship
465 program administered by the Department of Education. The program
466 shall provide an annual scholarship to [diverse students] aspiring
467 educators who (1) graduated from a public high school in [an alliance
468 district, as defined in section 10-262u] the state, and (2) are enrolled in a
469 teacher preparation program at any four-year institution of higher
470 education. [A diverse student] An aspiring educator may receive an
471 annual scholarship in an amount up to ten thousand dollars for each
472 year such [diverse student] aspiring educator is enrolled and in good
473 standing in a teacher preparation program. As used in this section,
474 ["diverse" has the same meaning as provided in section 10-156bb]
475 "aspiring educator" means an individual who is from an economically
476 disadvantaged background and has committed to teaching in a subject
477 area that has been identified as a teacher shortage area pursuant to
478 section 10-8b and "economically disadvantaged background" means a
479 personal or familial background with limited financial resources, as
480 determined by the Commissioner of Education.

481 (b) Not later than January 1, [2023] 2027, the department shall, in
482 consultation with the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
483 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
484 develop a policy concerning the administration of the scholarship. Such
485 policy shall include, but need not be limited to, provisions regarding (1)
486 any additional eligibility criteria, (2) payment and distribution of the
487 scholarships to [diverse students] aspiring educators through the
488 teacher preparation programs in which they are enrolled, and (3) the
489 notification of students in high school [in alliance districts] of the
490 scholarship program, including the opportunity to apply for a
491 scholarship under the program while enrolled in high school and prior
492 to graduation if such student will be enrolled in a teacher preparation
493 program during the following fall semester at a four-year institution of
494 higher education.

495 (c) For the fiscal years ending June 30, [2024] 2027, and each fiscal year
496 thereafter, the department shall award scholarships in accordance with

497 the provisions of this section and the guidelines developed pursuant to
 498 subsection (b) of this section.

499 (d) The Commissioner of Education shall develop scholarship
 500 repayment criteria for recipients who are not employed as a certified
 501 teacher by a local or regional board of education in the state following
 502 graduation from a teacher preparation program. Any amounts repaid to
 503 the department shall be deposited in the General Fund.

504 (e) The department may accept gifts, grants and donations, from any
 505 source, public or private, for the aspiring educators [diversity]
 506 scholarship program.

507 (f) Not later than January 1, [2024] 2028, and annually thereafter, the
 508 department shall develop a report that includes annual data on [the race
 509 and ethnicity of the diverse] students who receive a scholarship under
 510 the program and the teacher preparation program in which they are
 511 enrolled. The department shall submit such report to the joint standing
 512 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 513 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-66bb(b) and (c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-15c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2027</i>	10-15c
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-264l(h)(2)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-252a(e)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-266aa(i)(1)
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-264i(a)(4)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	10-66q
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	10-94l
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	10-223h(i) and (j)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156bb
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156cc
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156ee
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156ff

Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156jj
Sec. 16	<i>from passage</i>	10-43(a)
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-156ii

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Department of Education.

[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.]