



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Substitute Bill No. 7149



AN ACT BOLSTERING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of section 10-146c of the general statutes, the Commissioner
3 of Education, or the commissioner's designee, as agent for the state
4 shall enter into reciprocity agreements concerning professional
5 certification reciprocity with the chief education officials for the states
6 of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine,
7 New York and New Jersey. Not later than January 1, 2020, and
8 annually thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a progress report
9 on the development and implementation of such reciprocity
10 agreements and any recommendations for legislation to the joint
11 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
12 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
13 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

14 Sec. 2. Section 8-265pp of the general statutes is repealed and the
15 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

16 The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority shall develop and
17 administer a program of mortgage assistance to certified teachers (1)
18 employed by priority school districts pursuant to section 10-266p, (2)
19 employed by transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c,
20 (3) employed by the Technical Education and Career System at a

21 technical education and career school located in such priority or
22 transitional school districts, [or] (4) who teach in a subject matter
23 shortage area pursuant to section 10-8b, (5) who graduated from a
24 public high school in an educational reform district, as defined in
25 section 10-262u, or (6) who graduated from an historically black
26 college or university or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms
27 are defined in the Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as
28 amended from time to time and reauthorized by the Higher Education
29 Opportunity Act of 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time.
30 Such assistance shall be available to eligible teachers for the purchase
31 of a house as their principal residence, provided, in the case of a
32 teacher employed by a priority or a transitional school district, or by
33 the Technical Education and Career System at a technical education
34 and career school located in a priority or transitional school district,
35 the house is located in such district. In making mortgage assistance
36 available under the program, the authority shall utilize down payment
37 assistance or any other appropriate housing subsidies. The terms of
38 any mortgage assistance shall allow the mortgagee to realize a
39 reasonable portion of the equity gain upon sale of the mortgaged
40 property.

41 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-183v of the general statutes is
42 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
43 *1, 2019*):

44 (b) A teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may be
45 reemployed for up to one full school year by a local board of
46 education, the State Board of Education or by any constituent unit of
47 the state system of higher education (1) in a position [(1)] designated
48 by the Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area [, or] for
49 the school year in which the teacher is being employed, (2) at a school
50 located in a school district identified as a priority school district,
51 pursuant to section 10-266p, for the school year in which the teacher is
52 being employed, (3) if the teacher graduated from a public high school
53 in an educational reform district, as defined in section 10-262u, or (4) if

54 the teacher graduated from an historically black college or university
55 or a Hispanic-serving institution, as those terms are defined in the
56 Higher Education Act of 1965, P.L. 89-329, as amended from time to
57 time and reauthorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of
58 2008, P.L. 110-315, as amended from time to time. Notice of such
59 reemployment shall be sent to the board by the employer and by the
60 retired teacher at the time of hire and at the end of the assignment.
61 Such reemployment may be extended for an additional school year,
62 provided the local board of education (A) submits a written request for
63 approval to the Teachers' Retirement Board, (B) certifies that no
64 qualified candidates are available prior to the reemployment of such
65 teacher, and (C) indicates the type of assignment to be performed, the
66 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

67 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
68 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
69 *1, 2019*):

70 (a) The State Board of Education, upon receipt of a proper
71 application, shall issue an initial educator certificate to any person who
72 (1) holds a bachelor's degree or an advanced degree from an institution
73 of higher education [accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher
74 Education or Office of Higher Education or] that is regionally
75 accredited or has received an equivalent accreditation, and (2) has
76 completed (A) an educator preparation program approved by the State
77 Board of Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in
78 which the institution of higher education is located, or (B) an alternate
79 route to certification program approved by the State Board of
80 Education or the appropriate governing body in the state in which
81 such alternate route to certification program is located, and satisfies
82 the requirements for a temporary ninety-day certificate, pursuant to
83 subsection (c) of this section, or a resident teacher certificate, pursuant
84 to section 10-145m. In addition, on and after July 1, 2018, each
85 applicant shall have completed a subject area major as defined by the
86 State Board of Education, except (i) as provided in section 10-145l, or

87 (ii) where an applicant achieves a satisfactory evaluation on an
88 appropriate State Board of Education approved subject area
89 assessment and has completed advanced coursework in a relevant
90 subject area. Each such initial educator certificate shall be valid for
91 three years, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, and
92 may be extended by the Commissioner of Education for an additional
93 year for good cause upon the request of the superintendent in whose
94 school district such person is employed or upon the request of the
95 assessment team reviewing such person's performance.

96 Sec. 5. Subsections (e) and (f) of section 10-145f of the general
97 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
98 (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

99 (e) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
100 who holds a valid teaching certificate that is at least equivalent to an
101 initial educator certificate, as determined by the State Board of
102 Education, and such certificate is issued by a state other than
103 Connecticut in the subject area or endorsement area for which such
104 person is seeking certification in Connecticut shall not be required to
105 successfully complete the competency examination and subject matter
106 assessment pursuant to this section, if such person [has] either [(1)] (A)
107 has successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience
108 or service in the endorsement area for which such person is seeking
109 certification in Connecticut in the past ten years in a public school or a
110 nonpublic school approved by the appropriate state board of
111 education in such other state, or [(2)] (B) holds a master's degree or
112 higher in the subject area for which such person is seeking certification
113 in Connecticut.

114 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who
115 has held a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of
116 Education which has expired shall not be required to successfully
117 complete the subject matter assessment in the endorsement area for
118 which such person is seeking renewal or advancement of such
119 certificate, pursuant to this section, if such person either (A) has

120 successfully completed at least three years of teaching experience or
 121 service under a valid teaching certificate issued by the State Board of
 122 Education or issued by a state other than Connecticut, in the past ten
 123 years in such endorsement area in a public school or a nonpublic
 124 school, or (B) holds a master's degree or higher in the subject area for
 125 which such person is seeking renewal or advancement of such
 126 certificate.

127 (f) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person
 128 who has achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an equivalent
 129 competency examination or subject area assessment required for
 130 educator certification in another state shall not be required to achieve a
 131 satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
 132 matter assessment pursuant to this section, provided the State Board of
 133 Education determines that the requirements for achieving a
 134 satisfactory evaluation on such equivalent competency examination or
 135 subject area assessment in another state are at least equivalent to the
 136 requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education for achieving
 137 a satisfactory evaluation on the competency examination or subject
 138 matter assessment pursuant to this section.

139 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any person who
 140 has previously achieved a satisfactory evaluation on an appropriate
 141 State Board of Education approved subject area assessment for a
 142 teaching certificate that has expired shall not be required to take the
 143 appropriate subject matter assessment currently approved by the State
 144 Board of Education, provided the Commissioner of Education
 145 determines that the requirements for achieving a satisfactory
 146 evaluation on such previous subject area assessment are at least
 147 equivalent to the requirements prescribed by the State Board of
 148 Education for such current subject matter assessment.

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, 2019</i>	8-265pp
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-183v(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145b(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	10-145f(e) and (f)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 5(e)(1), "has either [(1)] (A)" was changed to "[has] either [(1)] (A) has" for clarity; and in Section 5(e)(2), "and such certificate" was changed to "which" and "has either (A)" was changed to "either (A) has", for clarity.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*