



General Assembly

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Governor's Bill No. 874

LCO No. 4520

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Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.

SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.

REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Commission on Shared School Services. ~~for the purpose of developing a plan for the redistricting or consolidation of school services and school districts. Such plan shall be developed that shall develop a plan recommendations~~ in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this act.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is a representative of the American Federation of Teachers-

Connecticut and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association and one of whom is a chief elected official of a municipality;

(3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a representative of the Connecticut School Transportation Association;

(4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate who shall be a representative of a regional school district;

(5) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a representative of the RESC Alliance;

(6) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents;

(7) Six appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom is a parent of a student enrolled in a public school, one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools and one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials, and each of whom must in the interest of geographical diversity come from a different RESC region;

(8) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

(9) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee; and

(10) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

(c) All appointments to the commission shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be

filled by the appointing authority. The Commissioner of Education shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than forty-five days after the effective date of this section.

(d) There shall be two chairpersons of the commission as follows: (1) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee, and (2) a member of the commission who is selected by a majority of members of the commission at the first meeting of the commission.

(e) The Department of Education shall provide administrative support to the commission, including, but not limited to, administrative staff and supplies. The department may retain consultants, as necessary, to assist the commission in carrying out its duties.

(f) The commission shall terminate on June 30, 2027.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, shall develop ~~a plan~~ recommendations for ~~redistricting the sharing of school services and additional collaborations or consolidating school services~~ and within and among school districts. In developing such ~~plan~~ recommendations and to assist in the completion of the reports required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the chairpersons of the commission may, as needed, (1) establish subcommittees and working groups of the members, and (2) hold public hearings or conduct any other outreach, including consultations with the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established pursuant to section 2-79a of the general statutes.

(b) The commission shall:

(1) Not later than December 1, 2019, develop a report concerning existing school districts, including, but not limited to, (A) the sizes of existing school districts, including enrollment data and the number of certified and noncertified employees, (B) the types and administrative structures of existing school districts, such as local boards of education, regional boards of education, regional educational services centers, state

and local charter schools, incorporated or endowed high schools or academies, the Technical Education and Career System and regional agricultural science and technology education centers, (C) the number of schools, including school building size and capacity, enrollment data and grade ranges, as reported to the Department of Administrative Services in such form and manner as prescribed by the office of school grants and review within the department.

(2) Not later than November 1, 2019, develop a report concerning existing shared services between school districts and employment of superintendents of schools, including, but not limited to, existing cooperative arrangements pursuant to section 10-158a of the general statutes and instances of the joint employment of a superintendent of schools pursuant to section 10-157a of the general statutes, as amended by this act;

(3) Not later than November 15, 2019, develop a report concerning academic and support services provided by school districts, as reported to the Department of Education in such form and manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;

~~(4) Not later than January 15, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning additional collaborations among school districts, including, but not limited to, the total number of school districts, types of school districts, total number of schools in a school district and enrollment of school districts;~~

~~(5) Not later than January 15, 2020, develop a report containing a review and preliminary recommendations concerning the governance structure of school districts;~~

(46) Not later than February 1, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning ~~enhanced—shared services~~additional collaborations among school districts and with municipalities;

(57) Not later than April 1, 2020, develop a report containing a review

of the current services provided by regional educational service centers and preliminary recommendations concerning the role of regional educational service centers in ~~regionalization and~~ shared service efforts;

(68) Not later than April 15, 2020, develop a report containing a review of existing labor contracts within each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning how future labor contracts should be negotiated as additional education services are shared and ~~following redistricting~~ additional collaboration occurs;

(79) Not later than June 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials, a report containing a review of existing school transportation service contracts within each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning the establishment of shared school transportation contracts, including time spent by students on school buses, hours of such transportation services, tiers of schools and any other related issues;

(810) Not later than July 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, a report containing a review of interscholastic athletic schedules and arrangements within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning the development of interscholastic athletic schedules and related issues, including transportation services to interscholastic athletic events and school hours;

(911) Not later than July 1, 2020, develop, in consultation with the Connecticut After School Network, a report containing a review of existing after-school programs and arrangements within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, and preliminary recommendations concerning the potential impact and changes to such

after-school programs and arrangements following ~~redistricting or~~ the sharing of services, on such issues as transportation and school hours;

(~~1012~~) Not later than August 1, 2020, develop a report containing a review of the current school choice program structures and unified enrollment systems ~~concerning a regional or state basis~~, and preliminary recommendations on ~~the integration of school choice~~ those programs in a system of shared services and additional school district consolidations collaborations;

(~~1113~~) Not later than August 15, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the impact that ~~redistricting and consolidation~~ additional collaborations may have on the provision of special education services not otherwise addressed in any of the previous preliminary recommendations required under this section;

(~~1214~~) Not later than August 15, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the impact that ~~redistricting and consolidation~~ additional collaborations may have on early childhood care and education programs within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(~~1315~~) Not later than September 1, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning school building usage within and among each of the various types of school districts described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(~~1416~~) Not later than October 1, 2020, develop a report containing preliminary recommendations concerning the use of incentives, grants or tax changes to accomplish any of the other preliminary recommendations developed pursuant to this section; and

(~~1517~~) Not later than December 1, 2020, develop a comprehensive report concerning the preliminary recommendations developed pursuant to this section, including financial projections on savings and costs resulting from additional collaborations among school districts

~~redistricting or consolidation.~~

(c) Not later than December 15, 2020, the chairpersons of the commission shall hold a public hearing on the comprehensive report developed pursuant to subdivision (17) of subsection (b) of this section.

(d) The commission may continue to develop additional recommendations following the submission of any report required under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) All reports and ~~plans~~ recommendations developed pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Governor, State Board of Education and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

(f) The Commissioner of Education shall make all such reports and ~~plans~~ recommendations available to the public on the Internet web site of the Department of Education.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than March 1, 2020, the Commissioner of Education shall solicit proposals, through a request for information, for cooperative and additional collaborative arrangements ~~and regionalization~~ of education services and incentives for the establishment of such cooperative and additional collaborative arrangements ~~or regionalization~~ of education services. The commissioner shall submit a report on the results of such request for information to the Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) (1) Not later than September 15, 2019, each municipality and the local or regional board of education for such municipality shall develop a report on which services have been shared or consolidated (A) between the municipality and its local or regional board of education, and (B) with other municipalities or local and regional boards of education, including, but not limited to, human resources, accounting, payroll, procurement, finance, information

technology, risk management, health care and retirement benefits, insurance and claims administration and buildings and grounds. Such report shall include a detailed cost-benefit analysis of such consolidations.

(2) Each municipality shall submit such report, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to the secretary, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall forward such reports to the Commission on Shared School Services, established pursuant to section 1 of this act, and the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, established pursuant to section 2-79a of the general statutes.

(b) (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, each municipality and the local or regional board of education for such municipality shall, in consultation with the Commission on Shared School Services and the Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, develop a report on which services will be shared or consolidated (A) between the municipality and its local or regional board of education, and (B) with other municipalities or local and regional boards of education, including, but not limited to, human resources, accounting, payroll, procurement, finance, information technology, risk management, health care and retirement benefits, insurance and claims administration, and buildings and grounds. Such report shall include a (i) detailed cost-benefit analysis of such consolidations, (ii) a schedule for implementation to be completed on or before July 1, 2022, and (iii) an explanation of when services and consolidations are not being implemented.

(2) Each municipality shall submit such report, on a form and in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to the secretary, Commissioner of Education and Commissioner of Administrative Services. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall forward such reports to the Commission on Shared School Services and the Connecticut Advisory Commission

on Intergovernmental Relations.