



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5324**

February Session, 2026



**AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-106h of the 2026 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation with  
5 the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, shall  
6 develop an initial educational training program and refresher training  
7 program for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of  
8 suspected human trafficking.

9 (b) The training program shall include a presentation, developed and  
10 approved by said commissioners, that offers awareness of human  
11 trafficking issues and guidance to (1) law enforcement personnel, (2)  
12 judges of the Superior Court, (3) prosecutors, (4) public defenders and  
13 other attorneys who represent criminal defendants, (5) hospital  
14 emergency room staff, urgent care facility staff and emergency medical  
15 services personnel who have contact with patients, and (6) persons  
16 employed by a local or regional board of education or a constituent unit,  
17 as defined in section 10a-1, who have contact with students.

18 (c) Any person described in subsection (b) of this section shall

19 complete the initial educational training program not later than July 1,  
20 2018, and, except for a person described in subdivision (6) of said  
21 subsection, shall complete the refresher training program every three  
22 years thereafter, provided any person being employed as such a person  
23 shall complete such initial educational training program not later than  
24 six months after beginning such employment or July 1, 2018, whichever  
25 is later.

26 Sec. 2. Subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section 22a-226e of the 2026  
27 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is  
28 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

29 (5) On and after July 1, [2026] 2028, each public or nonpublic school  
30 building or educational facility in which students in grades  
31 kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, or any combination thereof, are  
32 enrolled, that is located not more than twenty miles from either an  
33 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility and  
34 that generates an average projected volume of not less than twenty-six  
35 tons per year of source-separated organic materials shall: (A) Separate  
36 such source-separated organic materials from other solid waste; and (B)  
37 ensure that such source-separated organic materials are recycled at any  
38 authorized source-separated organic material composting facility that  
39 has available capacity and that will accept such source-separated  
40 organic material.

41 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 10-262j of the 2026 supplement to the  
42 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
43 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

44 (f) Any district that has (1) elected to act as a self-insurer, pursuant to  
45 section 10-236, (2) experienced a loss that is overexposure of an insured  
46 member or incurred as a result of one or more catastrophic events, as  
47 declared by a nationally recognized catastrophe loss index provider,  
48 during the prior fiscal year, and (3) increased its budgeted appropriation  
49 for education during said prior fiscal year as a result of such loss, shall  
50 not be required to include the amount of such increase in the calculation

51 of such district's budgeted appropriation for education for the  
52 subsequent fiscal year.

53 Sec. 4. Section 10-260b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

55 (a) There is established the Education Mandate Review Advisory  
56 Council. The council shall advise and provide annual reports to the joint  
57 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
58 matters relating to education on the cost and implementation of existing  
59 education mandates on local and regional boards of education, as well  
60 as the impact of any proposals relating to additions or revisions to such  
61 education mandates. Such annual reports may include, but need not be  
62 limited to, (1) a review of each education mandate on local and regional  
63 boards of education passed by the General Assembly during the prior  
64 legislative session and not fewer than ten existing education mandates  
65 on local and regional boards of education [in] required by the general  
66 statutes and the regulations of Connecticut state agencies for the  
67 purpose of identifying those mandates that may be burdensome or have  
68 the effect of limiting or restricting the provision of instruction or services  
69 to students, including a detailed analysis of each such mandate so  
70 identified, the specific statutory or regulation citation for such mandate  
71 and how such mandate is imposed on a board of education, and (2) any  
72 recommendations regarding the repeal of or amendment to any such  
73 sections of the general statutes or regulations of Connecticut state  
74 agencies.

75 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

76 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
77 who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Boards  
78 of Education;

79 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who  
80 shall be a representative of the Connecticut Association of Public School  
81 Superintendents;

82 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
83 Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut  
84 Association of Schools;

85 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
86 a representative of the Connecticut Association of School Business  
87 Officials;

88 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
89 Representatives, who shall be a member of a local or regional board of  
90 education;

91 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be  
92 a representative of the Connecticut Federation of School  
93 Administrators;

94 (7) One appointed by the House chairperson of the joint standing  
95 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
96 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in  
97 this state;

98 (8) One appointed by the Senate chairperson of the joint standing  
99 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
100 relating to education, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut  
101 Education Association;

102 (9) One appointed by the House ranking member of the joint standing  
103 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
104 relating to education, who shall be a paraeducator in a public school in  
105 this state; and

106 (10) One appointed by the Senate ranking member of the joint  
107 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
108 matters relating to education, who shall be a representative of the  
109 American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut.

110 (c) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than  
111 August 1, 2024. The initial terms for the members appointed shall

112 terminate on January 31, 2029. Terms following the initial terms shall be  
113 for five years. Any member of the council may serve more than one  
114 term. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

115 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
116 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the council  
117 from among the members of the council. Such chairpersons shall  
118 schedule the first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later  
119 than October 1, 2024.

120 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
121 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
122 shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

123 (f) The council shall have the following powers and duties: (1) Review  
124 education mandates and submit annual reports pursuant to the  
125 provisions of subsection (a) of this section; (2) obtain from any executive  
126 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such  
127 assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes  
128 of this section; (3) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose  
129 of performing the duties described in this section; (4) establish bylaws  
130 to govern its procedures; and (5) perform such other acts as may be  
131 necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this  
132 section.

133 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the  
134 council shall develop and submit an annual report on its review of the  
135 implementation and cost of statutory and regulatory education  
136 mandates on local and regional boards of education. Such annual report  
137 shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) a review of ~~[all]~~ each  
138 education mandate on local and regional boards of education passed by  
139 the General Assembly during the prior legislative session and not fewer  
140 than ten existing education mandates required by state law, (2) the costs  
141 incurred by local and regional boards of education resulting from the  
142 implementation of such education mandates, and (3) how such  
143 education mandates are being implemented by local and regional

144 boards of education, including, but not limited to, the manner in which  
145 and how often such education mandate is being implemented. The  
146 council shall submit such report, and any recommendations for  
147 legislation, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
148 having cognizance of matters relating to education and the  
149 Commissioner of Education, in accordance with the provisions of  
150 section 11-4a.

151 Sec. 5. Sections 10-14ee, 10-212l, 10-212m and 10-234gg of the general  
152 statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1, 2026*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-106h
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	22a-226e(a)(5)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-262j(f)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	10-260b
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	Repealer section

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*