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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5325**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill:

1. expands the range of “life-threatening physical restraint” prohibited by state education physical restraint and seclusion laws to include any physical restraint or hold that has been deemed life-threatening by the individual’s health care provider due to existing medical conditions,
2. broadens the range of information school boards must include in a required annual expenditure report on funds they receive through the special education and expansion development (SEED) grant to match what the law says the SEED grant funds may be spent on, and
3. requires that any written contract between a school board and a private provider of special education services include a provision requiring the private provider to submit a base tuition and cost for services.

The bill also makes technical and minor changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

#### **EXPANSION TO LIFE-THREATENING PHYSICAL RESTRAINT DEFINITION**

The bill expands the definition of “life-threatening physical restraint” within Connecticut’s education law addressing physical restraint and seclusion to include any physical restraint or hold that has been deemed life-threatening by the individual’s health care provider due to existing medical conditions.

By law, the definition already includes any physical restraint or hold that (1) restricts the flow of air into a person's lungs, whether by chest compression or any other means, or (2) immobilizes or reduces the free movement of a person's arms, legs, or head while the person is in the prone position.

Under existing law, and unchanged by the bill, no school employee can use life-threatening physical restraint on a student.

### **SEED GRANT ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT**

Current law requires school boards that receive a SEED grant to annually report to the Connecticut State Department of Education how they spend their SEED grant (provided it is more than \$10,000). The report must itemize how grant funds were expended during the prior fiscal year for directly providing special education and related services to students, including hiring any new special education teachers, paraeducators, or behavioral or reading specialists.

The bill instead matches the reporting requirement with the grant's allowable "special education purposes." More specifically, this requires the report to itemize how grant funds were spent for (1) directly providing special education and related services to students; (2) Tier 2 interventions; (3) academic and behavioral interventions; (4) hiring and paying special education teachers, paraeducators, and behavioral and reading specialists who work directly with students; (5) equipment purchases and maintenance; and (6) curriculum materials.

### **BASE TUITION AND COST OF SERVICES PROVISION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS**

The bill requires that any written contract between a school board and a private provider of special education services include a provision requiring the provider to submit a base tuition and cost for services for each school year they provide services under the contract. This submission must be made by the December 31st before the school year when the services will be provided.

Under existing law, and unchanged by the bill, these contracts must also include an explanation of how the tuition or costs for services

provided under the contract will be calculated.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 46 Nay 0 (03/18/2026)