

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

## PA15-94

### SB962

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Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public  
Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives  
Proceedings

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2015**

**VOL.58  
PART 16  
5254 - 5587**

/kc  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

423  
May 27, 2015

Calendar 633.

CLERK:

On Page 48, Calendar 633, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations. Substitute Senate Bill 962, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL AND SECONDARY LEVEL CURRICULUM.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance to Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Question is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Will you remark?

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18<sup>th</sup>):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. This measure before us would add the following four subject matter areas to middle or high school curriculum, computer programming instruction, safe use of social media, training in CPR or cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and instruction regarding custodial stops.

That last subject was one that raised quite a

bit of concern among friends on both sides of the aisle. And in that spirit, Mr. Speaker, the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 7028. I ask the Clerk please call and I be permission to summarize.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Will Clerk please call LCO 7028, which has been previously designated Senate Amendment "A."

CLERK:

Senate Amendment "A," LCO 7028, introduced by Senators Slossberg and Boucher and Representatives Fleischmann and Lavielle.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Gentleman has sought leave of the Chamber to summarize. Is there objection? Seeing none. You may proceed with summarization, sir.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, there was one of the four areas that raised a set of concerns on both sides of the aisle. So out of respect for those concerns, Senate Amendment "A" would add just three subject areas to middle or high school curriculum and omit custodial stop training. I move adoption.

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REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

The question before the Chamber is adoption of Senate Amendment "A." Will you remark?

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143<sup>rd</sup>):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good evening.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Good evening.

REP. LAVIELLE (143<sup>rd</sup>):

A very quick couple of questions for clarification to the proponent.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Please proceed, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143<sup>rd</sup>):

Yes. I just wanted to clarify, Mr. Speaker, does the amendment also eliminates the requirement that this happen in either - that these courses be given in either middle or secondary school? It's no longer - the period is no longer specified; am I correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18<sup>th</sup>):

Through you, Madam Speaker - Mr. Speaker.

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Yes. I believe that under Senate "A," the curricula described could occur in either middle school or high school. Through you.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143<sup>rd</sup>):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think this is an excellent amendment because the custodial stop and the instruction in what to do in cases of arrest and being stopped by the police has been eliminated. I think we all agreed on that with the Education Committee. So I would urge support of the amendment. Thank you.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, madam. Further on Senate "A?" Further on Senate "A?" If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Senate "A," please signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The amendment is adopted. [gavel] Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Further on

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the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests -  
Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143<sup>rd</sup>):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just - a couple of  
comments on the bill. There are - all of the  
subjects; the CPR, the social media, the computer  
programming are worthy subjects. And I think there  
are those who consider they are important enough to  
be included. I am somewhat concerned. I have a  
couple of concerns about the bill because, first  
off, it would result in the fiscal note gives each  
district about \$5,000 in annual costs for each of  
these three subjects.

That would be \$15,000 plus any additional  
staff who might have to be hired to teach the  
subjects. And then in addition to that, I'm also a  
bit troubled by the fact that we have created over  
the past few years, a number of curriculum  
requirements for our public schools that we have  
not yet been able to implement. And we continue to  
give them additional time.

It's a lot to burden our school districts  
with. And I think at this time, we need to get  
right what we've already required. And get all of

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our school's districts up to speed. So I will not be supporting the bill. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, madam. Would you care to remark? Would you care to remark further on the bill as amended? If not, staff and guests to the Well of the House. Members, take your seats. The machine will be open.

CLERK:

[bell ringing] The House of Representatives is voting is roll. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please report to the Chamber immediately.

[pause]

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Have all members voted? Have all the members voted? Members, please check the board to make sure your vote is properly cast. If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally.

Clerk, please announce the tally.



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CLERK:

Senate Bill 962 as amended by Senate "A" in  
concurrence with the Senate

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	110
Those voting Nay	33
Absent and not voting	8

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

The bill, as amended, passes in concurrence  
with the Senate. [gavel] Will the Clerk please  
call Calendar 598.

CLERK:

On Page 61, House Calendar 958, Favorable  
Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Higher  
Education and Employment Advancement. Substitute  
Senate Bill 1054, AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH  
DYSLEXIA.

REP. SHARKEY (88<sup>th</sup>):

Representative Fleischmann.

REP. FLEISCHMANN (18<sup>th</sup>):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of  
the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage  
of the bill.

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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

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SENATE

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THE CHAIR:

Aye. Those opposed? Senate "A" has been adopted.  
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like to refer this item to the GAE Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On page 7, Calendar 218, Substitute for Senate Bill No. 962, AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL AND SECONDARY LEVEL CURRICULUM, Favorable Report of the Committee on Education.

THE CHAIR:

Good afternoon, birthday girl. Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Good afternoon, Madam President. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion's on acceptance and passage. Will you remark?

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes, Madam President. The Clerk has LCO No. 7028 and I would ask that it be called and I be granted leave to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

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LCO No. 7028, Senate "A," offered by Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, et al.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. And I move adoption.

THE CHAIR:

Motion's on adoption. Will you remark, ma'am.

SENATOR SLOSSBERG:

Yes. Madam President, this bill before - this amendment before us is a strike-all and what this amendment does, it becomes the bill. It adds the following areas into our curriculum. It adds within the subdivision of health and safety, training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with the provisions of the American Heart Association or the guidelines, as a subject within the broader topic of safety. It will include the safe use of social media and we will also have a requirement of computer programming instruction.

In addition, it allows a local or a regional Board of Education to accept in-kind donations in regards to cardiopulmonary resuscitation training under this section. And I would ask for the Chamber's approval.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Senator Boucher. Senator Boucher?

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to support the amendment. This was worked very collaboratively together to make sure that those areas that - where there were conflicts were resolved and it's a very good bill going forward. I support it and would also like to wish the Good Chairwoman of the

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SENATE

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Committee a very, very happy birthday. Thank you,  
Madam.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further on the amendment?  
Will you remark further on the amendment? If not,  
lemme try your minds. All those in favor of the  
amendment, please say aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Aye. Opposed? The amendment passes. Will you -  
Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff? There we go.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'd like  
to refer this item to the Appropriations Committee.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

On page 11, Calendar 295, Substitute for Senate Bill  
No. 1059, AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS, Favorable Report of the Committee on  
Education.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Slossberg.

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SENATE

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May 21, 2015

[pause]

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, please call the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Bill 593

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Passage	19
Those voting Yea	25
Those voting Nay	11
Absent/not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

The bill passes. [gavel] Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I believe we have entered now the lightning round of our Session for this morning. And so I'm going to mark one bill on Consent -

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

- though I feel we'll have more after that. I'd like to mark on Calendar Page 35, Calendar 218, Senate Bill 962 for the Consent Calendar please.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR DUFF:

Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to a mark bill Go please.

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**CONNECTICUT  
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SENATE

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- so moved.

SENATOR HARTLEY:

Thank you, madam.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Duff. Good eve - good morning.

SENATOR DUFF:

Good morning, Madam President. Madam President, if the Clerk can please call the items on the Consent Calendar, we can have a vote on the Consent Calendar.

[laughter]

THE CHAIR:

Yes. There we go. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Page 6, Calendar No. 334, Senate Bill 1101. Page 6, Calendar No. 335, Senate Bill 1103. Page 6, 319, Senate Bill 393. Page 7, 360, Senate Bill 1098. Page 9, 396, Senate Bill 1053. Page 35, Calendar 218, Senate Bill 962. Page 41, Calendar 377, Senate Bill 111. Page 5, Calendar 286, Senate Bill 958.

THE CHAIR:

The machine will be opened. Please call that - call for a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar.

CLERK:

An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate on Consent Calendar 1.

[pause]

CLERK:

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SENATE

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An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate. An immediate roll call vote has been ordered in the Senate.

[pause]

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

CLERK:

Consent Calendar No. 1

Total Number Voting	36
Necessary for Adoption	19
Those voting Yea	36
Those voting Nay	0
Absent/not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes. [gavel] Are there any points of personal privilege? Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Thanks for everyone for the cooperation in the course of the day. Just for a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. Now that it is an hour past midnight, it is now the birthday of one of our loyal staff members, Nick Neeley, who of course is now quite young but is still - but it is his birthday. Happy birthday to Nick.

[applause]

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**APPROPRIATIONS  
PART 14  
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**2015**

SB 1089  
 SB 1100  
 HB 6186  
 HB 6835  
 HB 7023



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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Testimony  
 submitted to the  
 Appropriations Committee  
 March 27, 2015

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports **HJ 19, RESOLUTION REQUIRING A TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO APPROVE MANDATES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

From our own annually approved resolutions:

CABE urges members of the Legislature to exercise restraint when addressing education issues that impact local operations. Overly prescriptive law or regulation inhibits local capacity to innovate and best serve its public.

Below is a list of bills that you are currently considering. CABE would like you to recognize the collective impact your individual votes on bills have. We don't doubt the good intentions, we simply want to make you aware of the number of bills that -DO- all together place a burden on the operation of running a district and the primary mission of educating students.

**Bills in the 2015 session**

**SB 843 AN ACT CONCERNING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS AND PUPIL PERSONNEL**, to expand in-service training for teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to include the recognition of trauma-informed behavior in children to enable such teachers, administrators and pupil personnel to more adequately respond to students with mental, emotional or behavioral health needs.

**SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT**, to require full day kindergarten.

**SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**, one or more world languages (req. in middle school new); vocational education; computer programming instruction; the safe use of social media; instruction regarding a person's rights and responsibilities during a custodial stop, investigative detention and arrest; and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including the use of chest compression.

**SB 1054 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA**, to define dyslexia, require an employee of SDE to be responsible for providing information and assistance to the public relating to dyslexia, include specific programmatic requirements for teacher preparation courses relating to dyslexia and include dyslexia instruction as part of the in-service training.

**SB 1058 AN ACT CONCERNING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**, to expand the Probate Court Truancy Clinic program to include alliance districts, to require school districts that have high rates of chronic

**JOINT  
STANDING  
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Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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Testimony  
submitted to the  
Education Committee  
February 25, 2015

SB 943 AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND REFORM  
SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT  
HB 6834 AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS  
HB 6837 AN ACT ENCOURAGING A GRADUATED RESPONSE MODEL FOR STUDENT DISPLINE  
SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR AND FREE MARKET CAPITALISM CURRICULUM  
HB 6835 AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS  
SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

**SB 943 AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND REFORM**

CABE supports the provisions of SB 943, An Act Concerning Charter School Modernization and Reform, which require a plan to share student learning practices and experiences with the local and regional board of education. The sharing of experiences was part of the original impetus for the creation of charter schools in Connecticut, and CABE is happy to serve as a vehicle to help disseminate this information statewide. We also support proposals to create transparency in the monitoring of student academic achievement and charter school budgets.

**SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT**

In order to implement this requirement effective July 1, 2017, there will be a need for resources targeted to those districts who have not yet been able to move to full-day kindergarten.

**HB 6834 AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

**HB 6837 AN ACT ENCOURAGING A GRADUATED RESPONSE MODEL FOR STUDENT DISPLINE**

CABE encourages boards of education to enter into memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies when they are used as school resource officers. This is a critical component in establishing a productive and effective working relationship between the school, the SRO and the local police department. We also provide model policies to districts concerning a graduated response for student discipline.

**SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR AND FREE MARKET CAPITALISM CURRICULUM**

Given the multiple other priorities at the State Department of Education, it seems unnecessary to impose another specific subject area in the curriculum resources that they are to develop and make available to school districts.

**HB 6835 AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

CABE is concerned about the cost increase to districts to provide a program of bilingual education where there are as few as 6 students who are non-English speakers. In addition, the extension of a bilingual education program from the 30 months to 60 months carries an additional price tag, and may in fact not be in the best interest of all students.

**SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

As drafted, this bill not only requires that the program of instruction include computer programming, the safety of social media, investigative detention and arrest, and CPR, but also extends the requirement for world languages beginning in grade 6. This bill would clearly impose an additional cost burden on school districts. In addition, additional specific curriculum requirements are in direct competition with a move to a more personalized learning experience for all our students. We urge you to reject this bill.

**SB 962 The Middle School Curriculum**

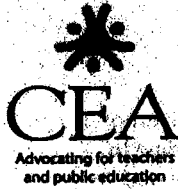
Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischman, and distinguished members of the Education Committee, my name is Chinma Uche, from West Hartford. I am a Math and Computer Science (CS) teacher and I am writing in support of SB 962, an Act Concerning the Middle School Curriculum. I am also the current President of the Connecticut Computer Science Teachers Association (CTCSTA, [www.ctcsta.org](http://www.ctcsta.org)).

CTCSTA is a membership organization of K-12 teachers, some college professors and other citizens who among other things advocate for K-12 Computer Science education for all students. This is in recognition of the ubiquitous nature of computers in our society. During our last meeting, just last Monday at Quinnipiac University, a teacher commented that the difficulty in convincing adults about giving access to all students lies in the fact that most adults think of CS the way they experienced it at school. The fact is that the tool for introducing Computer Science, which still teaches how to create technology and not only how to use it, have changed. CS has changed the way that we experience our world. The skills and knowledge that have created the mobile apps you use in your daily lives and the computer games that kids love have been used to develop great tools for bringing CS to all students. This is best experienced.

The Governor of Arkansas watched his granddaughter use some of these tools and campaigned to bring CS to all Arkansas high schools. Just yesterday, Governor Hutchinson signed CS into law, making Arkansas the first state in the Union to provide access to Computer Science to all high school students.

I want to assure you that incredible tools are available that make CS accessible to all students. If you could make out some time to work with any K-12 student on a CS activity from <http://studio.code.org/> you will understand how different the tools for delivering CS are today. It will make it easy for you to join President Obama, Vice President Biden, President Clinton and many other national leaders in advocating for CS for all students. We can no longer allow access to CS to be for only students with preparatory privileges. It is an equity issue. The tools for teaching CS allow us to address the practices in the CCSS, NGSS and many other standards in a fun, engaging and motivating way. It allows us to address many of the problems that have plagued education for a long time. Computer Science which fuels innovation in all areas of human endeavor can revolutionize the educational experiences of all Connecticut children for the better. The time to act is now. We need to prepare all our students for the unstructured problems of the future. Please bring CS to all Connecticut K-12 students. Thank you for your time.

Chinma Uche



Connecticut Education  
Association

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National Education Association

*Ray Rossomando*  
*Connecticut Education Association*

*Before the*  
*Education Committee*

*February 25, 2015*

**SB 942 AA IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION**

**SB 962 AAC THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

**SB 963 AAC A LABOR AND FREE MARKET CAPITALISM CURRICULUM**

**HB 6837 AA ENCOURAGING A GRADUATED RESPONSE MODEL FOR  
STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

**HB 6834 AAC COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION  
AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

**HB 6836 AAC THE TIMING OF CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS  
FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**

Good afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Education Committee. My name is Ray Rossomando, Research and Policy Development Specialist for the Connecticut Education Association. CEA represents 43,000 active and retired teachers across the state. I am testifying today on SB942, Governor Malloy's budget implementer proposals affecting education, as well as four other bills noted below.

**SB 942 AA Implementing The Budget Recommendations Of The Governor  
Concerning Education**

SB942 eliminates many important programs and services that help students most affected by achievement gaps to catch up to their peers. Consequently, CEA does not support SB942.

CEA recognizes that since 2010, and in the wake of significant recessionary challenges, Governor Malloy's budgeting commitment to education was laudable. The governor increased funding to education through the Education Cost Sharing grant and targeted resources to early childhood education as a stepping stone to success. However, the commitments to these critical grants, as well as to the many others that make a real difference in the lives of children, must be maintained



**SB 962 AAC The Middle School Curriculum and**  
**SB 963 AAC A Labor and Free Market Capitalism Curriculum**

CEA supports SB962, which requires the State Board of Education to develop model curriculums on the safe use of social media, investigative detention and arrest, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

CEA also supports SB963, which requires the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum on the history of labor and capitalism in the development of the American and world economies.

Producing a model curriculum will help teachers better address critical economic issues, such as income inequality, legal protections in the workplace, entrepreneurialism, and job creation, that are always vital topics in civic discourse.

**HB 6837 AA Encouraging A Graduated Response Model For Student Discipline and**  
**HB 6834 AAC Collaboration Between Boards Of Education And School Resource**  
**Officers**

CEA supports the governor's bill, HB6837, as well as the very similar language in HB6834. Each bill would help define the roles of School Resource Officers to ensure optimal collaboration between SROs and the students and staff in schools. Additionally, reports on suspensions, expulsions, and arrests in schools will help to identify and correct any disparities or excessive use of these punitive actions.

**HB 6836 AAC The Timing Of Criminal History Records Checks For School Employees**

CEA Supports HB6836, which would require faster background checks of new school employees. HB6836 reduces the deadline for school

44 employers to conduct background checks from 30 days to within 5 days of hire, ensuring greater safety, assurances, and peace of mind for everyone in the school community.

Thank you.

*Please see the Community Schools attachment*