



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5436

LCO No. 2229



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT PROHIBITING SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES THAT
DISCRIMINATE AGAINST STUDENTS BASED ON NATURAL HAIR
AND HAIRSTYLES.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

3 (a) Boards of education shall prescribe rules for the management,
4 studies, classification and discipline of the public schools and, subject to
5 the control of the State Board of Education, the textbooks to be used;
6 shall make rules for the control, within their respective jurisdictions, of
7 school library media centers, including Internet access and content, and
8 approve the selection of books and other educational media therefor,
9 and shall approve plans for public school buildings and superintend
10 any high or graded school in the manner specified in this title.

11 (b) Not later than July 1, 1985, each local and regional board of
12 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies
13 concerning homework, attendance, promotion and retention. The
14 Department of Education shall make available model policies and

15 guidelines to assist local and regional boards of education in meeting
16 the responsibilities enumerated in this subsection.

17 (c) Boards of education may prescribe rules to impose sanctions
18 against pupils who damage or fail to return textbooks, library materials
19 or other educational materials. Said boards may charge pupils for such
20 damaged or lost textbooks, library materials or other educational
21 materials and may withhold grades, transcripts or report cards until the
22 pupil pays for or returns the textbook, library book or other educational
23 material.

24 (d) Not later than July 1, 1991, each local and regional board of
25 education shall develop, adopt and implement policies and procedures
26 in conformity with section 10-154a for (1) dealing with the use, sale or
27 possession of alcohol or controlled drugs, as defined in subdivision (8)
28 of section 21a-240, by public school students on school property,
29 including a process for coordination with, and referral of such students
30 to, appropriate agencies, and (2) cooperating with law enforcement
31 officials.

32 (e) Not later than July 1, 1990, each local and regional board of
33 education shall adopt a written policy and procedures for dealing with
34 youth suicide prevention and youth suicide attempts. Each such board
35 of education may establish a student assistance program to identify risk
36 factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youths,
37 referral services and training for teachers and other school professionals
38 and students who provide assistance in the program.

39 (f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each local and regional board of
40 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies and
41 procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication. These policies
42 and procedures may include monthly newsletters, required regular
43 contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher conferences, drop-in
44 hours for parents, home visits and the use of technology such as
45 homework hot lines to allow parents to check on their children's
46 assignments and students to get assistance if needed. For the school year

47 commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, such policies
48 and procedures shall require the district to conduct two flexible parent-
49 teacher conferences for each school year.

50 (g) No local or regional board of education shall develop, adopt or
51 implement any policy that discriminates against or denies any student
52 an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and
53 courses of study offered in the schools under the jurisdiction of such
54 board, on the basis of such student's natural hair, hair texture or
55 hairstyle, such as braids, dreadlocks and twists.

56 Sec. 2. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the
57 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

58 (a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age
59 and over who reach age five on or before the first day of January of any
60 school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by
61 the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate
62 in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public
63 schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such
64 activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on
65 account of race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion,
66 national origin, [or] sexual orientation or hair texture or style; provided
67 boards of education may, by vote at a meeting duly called, admit to any
68 school children under five years of age.

69 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend
70 other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula,
71 facilities or extracurricular activities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-221
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10-15c

Statement of Purpose:

To prohibit local and regional boards of education from adopting policies that discriminate against students based on natural hair and hairstyles.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]