

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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Contact: Tess Koenigsmark  
860-240-8790

## **Rep. McGee Lauds Final Legislative Approval of Minority Teacher Recruitment Bill**

State **Rep. Brandon McGee** (D-Hartford/Windsor) lauded the House's approval Monday of legislation to increase the recruitment and retention of minority teachers. The bill was approved unanimously, after also passing the Senate with unanimous support.

[Senate Bill 455](#), An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment And Retention, changes the teacher certification laws to make it easier, in certain areas, to obtain certification or cross endorsement, requires the state Department of Education (SDE) to take certain actions to recruit and retain minority teachers, and adds members to the minority teacher recruitment and retention task force.

“Increasing the number of minority teachers in our schools is one of my legislative priorities, and this bill is an important step toward diversifying that workforce. This is more than a feel-good bill – the research firmly proves that children of color perform better when they have teachers of color,” **Rep. McGee** said. “We’re maintaining Connecticut’s high standards for teachers while creating pathways to recruit teachers from out-of-state or from among employees already in the school system. All children should have a chance to see themselves in the educators they look up to.”

The bill requires SDE to develop and approve a new alternate route to certification (ARC) program for people in certain professions to become teachers, including paraeducators, charter school teachers, veterans, and others.

It also increases the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force’s membership by authorizing the executive director to appoint three members, one each with expertise in African American affairs, Latino and Puerto Rican affairs, and Asian Pacific American affairs.

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