



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 160**

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 7020

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2007*

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through REP. RYAN, K. of the 139th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT TO PROMOTE INNOVATIONS, SAFE WORKPLACES AND HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT.**

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) The Board of Trustees of  
2 The University of Connecticut shall establish an Innovation Institute  
3 which shall be affiliated with The University of Connecticut Health  
4 Center. The purpose of the institute shall be to help Connecticut  
5 industries evaluate hazardous substances in production and materials,  
6 and shift to safer alternatives. The institute shall: (1) Gather data,  
7 conduct research and promote alternatives to hazardous substances in  
8 Connecticut industries; (2) provide resources, tools, training and  
9 support to make Connecticut a safer place to live and work; and (3)  
10 promote economic efficiency by reducing risks and improving  
11 compliance in Connecticut industries.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

|           |                 |             |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | October 1, 2007 | New section |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|

**HED**      *Joint Favorable C/R*

LAB

**LAB**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| Agency Affected     | Fund-Effect    | FY 08 \$    | FY 09 \$    |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| UConn Health Center | Various - Cost | Significant | Significant |

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

This bill requires the University of Connecticut Health Center (UCHC) to establish an Innovation Institute to evaluate hazardous substances in production and materials. This will result in significant increased costs for the Health Center for personnel, office and lab space and other costs. The extent of these costs will depend upon the size, scope and structure of the Institute, which is not specified in the bill.

A fully staffed, academic structure would include a director, chief scientist, chemical engineer, toxicologist, planner, industrial hygienist, and training coordinator, as well as administrative support and other coordination with UConn faculty. This model is estimated to have annual personnel costs of \$1.25 million, including fringe benefits. Such a structure would require an estimated \$270,000 annually in rent, consultant and Other Expense costs, as well as one time costs of \$400,000 to establish and staff the Institute.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7020*****AN ACT TO PROMOTE INNOVATIONS, SAFE WORKPLACES AND HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires UConn's board of trustees to establish an Innovation Institute, affiliated with the UConn Health Center, to help Connecticut industries (1) evaluate hazardous substances used in production and materials and (2) shift to safer alternative substances.

The bill requires the institute to (1) gather data, conduct research, and promote alternatives to hazardous substances in Connecticut industries; (2) provide resources, tools, training, and support to make the state a safer place to live and work; and (3) promote economic efficiency by reducing risks and improving compliance in Connecticut industries.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/13/2007)