



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5349

LCO No. 1492

01492_____PRI

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN AND COORDINATION FOR
ALIGNMENT OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-8b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall annually, by December
4 first, determine subject and geographic areas in which a teacher
5 shortage exists and shall certify such shortages to the Connecticut
6 Housing Finance Authority for purposes of section 8-265pp. In
7 determining teacher shortages, the commissioner shall consider the
8 following: (1) The number of teacher vacancies in a particular subject
9 or geographic area; (2) the number of new certificates in such areas
10 issued by the Department of Education during the preceding year; and
11 (3) the number and types of classes being taught by persons whose
12 training is not specific to the field in which they are teaching.

13 (b) The Department of Education shall annually, by January first,

14 electronically distribute to every institution of higher education in this
15 state offering a teacher preparatory program information concerning
16 teacher shortage areas, determined pursuant to subsection (a) of this
17 section, for at least the past five years.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) In accordance with
19 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes,
20 as amended by this act, the Board of Governors of Higher Education,
21 after consultation with the Higher Education Coordinating Council,
22 the Labor Commissioner or the commissioner's designee, the
23 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the
24 commissioner's designee, the director of the Office of Workforce
25 Competitiveness or the director's designee, the chairperson and
26 ranking members of the joint standing committees having cognizance
27 of matters relating to higher education, employment advancement and
28 commerce or their designees, the chairperson of the board and
29 president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges or
30 their designees and the president of the Connecticut Business and
31 Industry Association or the president's designee, and any other entities
32 as determined by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, shall:

33 (1) Examine the impact of demographics and workforce trends on
34 higher education in the state;

35 (2) Address the challenges related to increasing the number of
36 young people in the state earning a bachelor degree, increasing the
37 number of young people entering the state's workforce and the
38 disparity in the achievement gap between minority students and the
39 general student population;

40 (3) Develop and implement a strategic master plan pursuant to
41 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes,
42 as amended by this act, and include benchmarks for achieving those
43 goals by 2015 and 2020;

44 (4) Examine funding policies for higher education, including

45 coordination of appropriation, tuition and financial aid and seek ways
46 to maximize funding through federal and private grants;

47 (5) Recommend ways in which constituent unit of the state system
48 of higher education, in a manner consistent with such institution's
49 mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the state's
50 economic growth; and

51 (6) Submit a biennium report, in accordance with the provisions of
52 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the General
53 Assembly on the progress made toward achieving the benchmarks
54 established in the strategic master plan.

55 (b) In developing the strategic master plan, the Board of Governors
56 shall review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6 and 10a-11 of the
57 general statutes, as amended by this act, and the report titled "New
58 England 2020: A Forecast of Educational Attainment and its
59 Implications for the Workforce of New England States" prepared by
60 the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. In addition, the board may
61 consider the following: (1) Establishing incentives for institutional
62 performance and productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive
63 programs, especially in workforce shortage areas and for minority
64 students; (3) working with the Department of Education to implement
65 mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools and aligning
66 such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher education; (4)
67 seeking partnerships with the business community and public
68 institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce
69 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work
70 directly with higher education institutions to move students into
71 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative
72 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher
73 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high
74 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for
75 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical
76 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure

77 retention and graduation rates of students; (8) addressing the
78 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,
79 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,
80 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase
81 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)
82 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher
83 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

84 (c) Not later than January 1, 2011, the Board of Governors shall
85 submit the strategic master plan, including specific goals and
86 benchmarks for the years ending 2015 and 2020, together with any
87 recommendations for appropriate legislation and funding, to the
88 Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
89 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and
90 employment advancement, education, commerce, labor and
91 appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
92 the general statutes.

93 (d) On or before January 1, 2012, and biennially thereafter, the Board
94 of Governors shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
95 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
96 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
97 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
98 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
99 implementation of the plan and progress made toward achieving the
100 goals specified in the plan.

101 Sec. 3. Section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2010*):

103 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
104 state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public
105 higher education; (2) develop a strategic master plan for higher
106 education and postsecondary education, consistent with the goals in
107 subsection (b) of this section; (3) establish state-wide tuition and
108 student fee policies; (4) establish state-wide student financial aid

109 policies; (5) monitor and evaluate institutional effectiveness and
110 viability in accordance with criteria established by the board; (6) merge
111 or close institutions in accordance with criteria established by the
112 board provided (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require
113 a two-thirds vote of the board, and (B) notice of such recommended
114 merger or closing shall be sent to the committee having cognizance
115 over matters relating to education and to the General Assembly; (7)
116 review and approve mission statements for the constituent units and
117 role and scope statements for the individual institutions and branches
118 thereof; (8) review and approve any recommendations for the
119 establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board by
120 the constituent unit boards of trustees, and, in consultation with the
121 affected constituent units, provide for the initiation, consolidation or
122 termination of academic programs. The Board of Governors of Higher
123 Education shall notify the board of trustees affected by the proposed
124 termination of an academic program. Within ninety days of receipt of
125 such notice, said trustees shall accept or reject the termination proposal
126 and shall notify the Board of Governors of Higher Education of its
127 action. If the termination proposal is rejected by the trustees, the Board
128 of Governors of Higher Education may override the rejection by a two-
129 thirds vote; (9) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in
130 programs and institutions and enforce standards through licensing
131 and accreditation; (10) prepare and present to the Governor and
132 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated
133 operating and capital expenditure budgets for public higher education
134 developed in accordance with the provisions of said section 10a-8 and
135 section 10a-9; (11) review and make recommendations on plans
136 received from the constituent unit boards of trustees for the continuing
137 development and maximum utilization of the state's public higher
138 education resources; (12) appoint advisory committees to assist in
139 defining and suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of
140 higher education; (13) establish an advisory council for higher
141 education with representatives from public and private institutions to
142 study methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of all such

143 institutions in providing a stimulating and enriched educational
144 environment for the citizens of the state, including measures to
145 improve educational opportunities through alternative and
146 nontraditional approaches such as external degrees and credit by
147 examination; (14) coordinate programs and services throughout public
148 higher education and between public and independent institutions,
149 including procedures to evaluate the impact on independent
150 institutions of higher education of proposals affecting public
151 institutions of higher education; (15) make or enter into contracts,
152 leases or other agreements in connection with its responsibilities under
153 this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate by lease or otherwise
154 shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23; (16) be responsible
155 for the care and maintenance of permanent records of institutions of
156 higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969; (17) prepare and
157 present to the Governor and General Assembly legislative proposals
158 affecting public higher education, including proposals which utilize
159 programs and facilities of independent institutions of higher
160 education; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
161 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for
162 the state system of higher education; and (19) undertake such studies
163 and other activities as will best serve the higher educational interests
164 of the state.

165 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the
166 state system of higher education shall be consistent with the following
167 goals: (1) To [ensure that no qualified person be denied the
168 opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, ethnic
169 background or social, physical or economic condition] enhance student
170 learning and promote academic excellence, (2) to protect academic
171 freedom, (3) to [provide opportunities for education and training
172 related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the
173 state] join with elementary and secondary schools to improve teaching
174 and learning at all levels, (4) to [assure the fullest possible use of
175 available resources in public and private institutions of higher
176 education] ensure access to and affordability of higher education, (5) to

177 maintain standards of quality ensuring a position of national
178 leadership for state institutions of higher education, (6) to [apply the
179 resources of higher education to the problems of society] promote the
180 economic development of the state in order to help business and
181 industry sustain strong economic growth, [and] (7) to [foster flexibility
182 in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system
183 to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology and student
184 interests] respond to the needs and problems of society, and (8) to
185 ensure the efficient use of resources. Said board shall review recent
186 studies of the need for higher education services, with special attention
187 to those completed pursuant to legislative action, and to meet such
188 needs shall initiate additional programs or services through one or
189 more of the constituent units.

190 (c) Repealed by P.A. 83-533, S. 53, 54.

191 (d) The board of governors shall request and receive, or be provided
192 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the
193 constituent units of the state system of higher education that is
194 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this
195 section.

196 Sec. 4. Subsection (g) of section 10a-6b of the general statutes is
197 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
198 *October 1, 2010*):

199 (g) Each constituent unit of the state system of higher education
200 shall submit an accountability report to the Commissioner of Higher
201 Education annually, by January first. The report shall include
202 strategies to improve performance and achieve results on
203 accountability measures and unmet goals and funding estimates for
204 such strategies. The commissioner shall compile the reports and shall
205 submit, in accordance with section 11-4a, a consolidated accountability
206 report for the state system of higher education to the joint standing
207 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
208 relating to education, higher education and employment advancement,

209 and commerce annually, by February first. The report shall contain
210 accountability measures for each constituent unit and public
211 institution of higher education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of
212 this section. The report shall include updated baseline and peer
213 comparison data, performance improvement targets for each measure,
214 strategies to improve performance and achieve results on
215 accountability measures and unmet goals, funding estimates for such
216 strategies, and other information as determined by the commissioner.

217 Sec. 5. Section 10a-6a of the general statutes is amended by adding
218 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

219 (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2010, and every five years thereafter,
220 the council shall review the accountability measures developed
221 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and determine their
222 continued validity or need for revision or elimination. Any proposed
223 revisions or eliminations shall be submitted to the Board of Governors
224 of Higher Education for approval. Upon approval by the Board of
225 Governors of Higher Education, the Commissioner of Higher
226 Education shall notify the joint standing committees of the General
227 Assembly having cognizance of the subject matter of such revision or
228 elimination and provide them with a brief explanation of the reason
229 for approval.

230 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) The Office of Workforce
231 Competitiveness, in consultation with the Connecticut Employment
232 and Training Commission, the Departments of Education, Higher
233 Education, Economic and Community Development and the Labor
234 Department, shall biennially submit to the Board of Governors of
235 Higher Education a report identifying the sectors or subsectors in
236 which career pathways should be established, the workforce skills
237 needed in those sectors or subsectors and the types of postsecondary
238 programs required to address the workforce needs in those sectors or
239 subsectors.

240 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) On or before January 1, 2011,

241 and annually thereafter, the Higher Education Coordinating Council,
 242 in consultation with and using information developed by the Office of
 243 Workforce Competitiveness, shall make recommendations to the Board
 244 of Governors of Higher Education regarding (1) any postsecondary
 245 certificate or degree programs required to address workforce
 246 shortages, and (2) whether any existing postsecondary certificate or
 247 degree programs lack the capacity to address such shortages.

248 Sec. 8. Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 249 *from passage*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	10-8b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	10a-6
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	10a-6b(g)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	10a-6a
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning a strategic plan and coordination for alignment of postsecondary education and employment.

[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.]