



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5349

February Session, 2010

* _____ HB05349HED ___ 040810 _____ *

**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 Section 10-8b of the general statutes is repealed and the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 prior five years.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (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 appropriations, tuition and financial aid and seek ways
46 to maximize funding through federal and private grants;

47 (5) Recommend ways in which a constituent unit of the state system

48 of higher education, in a manner consistent with such unit's mission,
49 expand such unit's role in advancing the state's economic growth; and

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

54 (b) In developing the strategic master plan, the Board of Governors
55 shall review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6 and 10a-11 of the
56 general statutes, as amended by this act, and the report titled "New
57 England 2020: A Forecast of Educational Attainment and its
58 Implications for the Workforce of New England States" prepared by
59 the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. In addition, the board may
60 consider the following: (1) Establishing incentives for institutional
61 performance and productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive
62 programs, especially in workforce shortage areas and for minority
63 students; (3) working with the Department of Education to implement
64 mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools and aligning
65 such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher education; (4)
66 seeking partnerships with the business community and public
67 institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce
68 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work
69 directly with higher education institutions to move students into
70 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative
71 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher
72 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high
73 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for
74 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical
75 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure
76 retention and graduation rates of students; (8) addressing the
77 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,
78 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,
79 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase
80 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)
81 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher

82 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

83 (c) Not later than January 1, 2011, the Board of Governors shall
84 submit a progress report concerning its development of the strategic
85 master plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
86 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
87 education and employment advancement, education, commerce, labor
88 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
89 of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2012, the board shall
90 submit the strategic master plan, including specific goals and
91 benchmarks for the years ending 2015 and 2020, together with any
92 recommendations for appropriate legislation and funding to the
93 Governor and said joint standing committees, in accordance with the
94 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

95 (d) On or before January 1, 2013, and biennially thereafter, the Board
96 of Governors shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
97 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
98 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
99 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
100 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
101 implementation of the plan and progress made toward achieving the
102 goals specified in the plan.

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

105 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
106 state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public
107 higher education; (2) develop a strategic master plan for higher
108 education and postsecondary education, consistent with the goals in
109 subsection (b) of this section; (3) establish state-wide tuition and
110 student fee policies; (4) establish state-wide student financial aid
111 policies; (5) monitor and evaluate institutional effectiveness and
112 viability in accordance with criteria established by the board; (6) merge
113 or close institutions in accordance with criteria established by the

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

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

167 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the
168 state system of higher education shall be consistent with the following
169 goals: (1) To ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity
170 for higher education on the basis of age, sex, ethnic background or
171 social, physical or economic condition, (2) to protect academic
172 freedom, (3) to provide opportunities for education and training
173 related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the
174 state, (4) to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in
175 public and private institutions of higher education, (5) to maintain
176 standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state
177 institutions of higher education, (6) to [apply the resources of higher
178 education to the] respond to the needs and problems of society, [and]
179 (7) to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher
180 education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy,
181 society, technology and student interests, (8) to promote the economic
182 development of the state in order to help business and industry sustain

183 strong economic growth, (9) to ensure affordability of higher education
184 and efficient use of resources, and (10) to join with elementary and
185 secondary schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels. Said
186 board shall review recent studies of the need for higher education
187 services, with special attention to those completed pursuant to
188 legislative action, and to meet such needs shall initiate additional
189 programs or services through one or 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>from passage</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

PRI *Joint Favorable Subst.*

HED *Joint Favorable*