



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 6257

LCO No. 2721

02721_____HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In accordance with
2 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes,
3 as amended by this act, the Board of Governors of Higher Education,
4 after consultation with the Higher Education Coordinating Council,
5 the Labor Commissioner or the commissioner's designee, the
6 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the
7 commissioner's designee, the director of the Office of Workforce
8 Competitiveness or the director's designee, the chairperson and
9 ranking members of the joint standing committees having cognizance
10 of matters relating to higher education, employment advancement and
11 commerce or their designees, the chairperson of the board and
12 president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges or
13 their designees and the president of the Connecticut Business and
14 Industry Association or the president's designee, and any other entities
15 as determined by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, shall:

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

18 (2) Address the challenges related to increasing the number of
19 young people in the state earning a bachelor degree, increasing the
20 number of young people entering the state's workforce and the
21 disparity in the achievement gap between minority students and the
22 general student population;

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

27 (4) Examine funding policies for higher education, including
28 coordination of appropriations, tuition and financial aid and seek ways
29 to maximize funding through federal and private grants;

30 (5) Recommend ways in which a constituent unit of the state system
31 of higher education, in a manner consistent with such unit's mission,
32 should expand such unit's role in advancing the state's economic
33 growth; and

34 (6) Not later than January 1, 2013, submit a biennial report, in
35 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
36 to the Governor and the General Assembly on the progress made
37 toward achieving the benchmarks established in the strategic master
38 plan.

39 (b) In developing the strategic master plan, the Board of Governors
40 shall review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6 and 10a-11 of the
41 general statutes, as amended by this act, and the report titled "New
42 England 2020: A Forecast of Educational Attainment and its
43 Implications for the Workforce of New England States" prepared by
44 the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. In addition, the board may
45 consider the following: (1) Establishing incentives for institutional

46 performance and productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive
47 programs, especially in workforce shortage areas and for minority
48 students; (3) working with the Department of Education to implement
49 mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools and aligning
50 such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher education; (4)
51 seeking partnerships with the business community and public
52 institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce
53 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work
54 directly with higher education institutions to move students into
55 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative
56 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher
57 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high
58 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for
59 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical
60 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure
61 retention and graduation rates of students; (8) addressing the
62 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,
63 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,
64 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase
65 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)
66 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher
67 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

68 (c) Not later than January 1, 2012, the Board of Governors shall
69 submit a progress report concerning its development of the strategic
70 master plan to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
71 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
72 education, employment advancement, education, commerce, labor and
73 appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
74 the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2013, the board shall
75 submit the strategic master plan, including specific goals and
76 benchmarks for the years ending 2015 and 2020, together with any
77 recommendations for appropriate legislation and funding to the
78 Governor and said joint standing committees, in accordance with the
79 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

80 (d) On or before January 1, 2014, and biennially thereafter, the Board
81 of Governors shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
82 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
83 matters relating to higher education, employment advancement,
84 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
85 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
86 implementation of the plan and progress made toward achieving the
87 goals specified in the plan.

88 Sec. 2. Section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the
89 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

90 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
91 state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public
92 higher education; (2) develop a strategic master plan for higher
93 education and postsecondary education, consistent with the goals in
94 subsection (b) of this section and in accordance with section 1 of this
95 act; (3) establish state-wide tuition and student fee policies; (4)
96 establish state-wide student financial aid policies; (5) monitor and
97 evaluate institutional effectiveness and viability in accordance with
98 criteria established by the board; (6) merge or close institutions in
99 accordance with criteria established by the board provided (A) such
100 recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the
101 board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be
102 sent to the committee having cognizance over matters relating to
103 education and to the General Assembly; (7) review and approve
104 mission statements for the constituent units and role and scope
105 statements for the individual institutions and branches thereof; (8)
106 review and approve any recommendations for the establishment of
107 new academic programs submitted to the board by the constituent unit
108 boards of trustees, and, in consultation with the affected constituent
109 units, provide for the initiation, consolidation or termination of
110 academic programs. The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall
111 notify the board of trustees affected by the proposed termination of an
112 academic program. Within ninety days of receipt of such notice, said

113 trustees shall accept or reject the termination proposal and shall notify
114 the Board of Governors of Higher Education of its action. If the
115 termination proposal is rejected by the trustees, the Board of
116 Governors of Higher Education may override the rejection by a two-
117 thirds vote; (9) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in
118 programs and institutions and enforce standards through licensing
119 and accreditation; (10) prepare and present to the Governor and
120 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated
121 operating and capital expenditure budgets for public higher education
122 developed in accordance with the provisions of said section 10a-8 and
123 section 10a-9; (11) review and make recommendations on plans
124 received from the constituent unit boards of trustees for the continuing
125 development and maximum utilization of the state's public higher
126 education resources; (12) appoint advisory committees to assist in
127 defining and suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of
128 higher education; (13) establish an advisory council for higher
129 education with representatives from public and private institutions to
130 study methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of all such
131 institutions in providing a stimulating and enriched educational
132 environment for the citizens of the state, including measures to
133 improve educational opportunities through alternative and
134 nontraditional approaches such as external degrees and credit by
135 examination; (14) coordinate programs and services throughout public
136 higher education and between public and independent institutions,
137 including procedures to evaluate the impact on independent
138 institutions of higher education of proposals affecting public
139 institutions of higher education; (15) make or enter into contracts,
140 leases or other agreements in connection with its responsibilities under
141 this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate by lease or otherwise
142 shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23; (16) be responsible
143 for the care and maintenance of permanent records of institutions of
144 higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969; (17) prepare and
145 present to the Governor and General Assembly legislative proposals
146 affecting public higher education, including proposals which utilize

147 programs and facilities of independent institutions of higher
148 education; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
149 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for
150 the state system of higher education; and (19) undertake such studies
151 and other activities as will best serve the higher educational interests
152 of the state.

153 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the
154 state system of higher education shall be consistent with the following
155 goals: (1) To ensure that no qualified person be denied the opportunity
156 for higher education on the basis of age, sex, ethnic background or
157 social, physical or economic condition, (2) to protect academic
158 freedom, (3) to provide opportunities for education and training
159 related to the economic, cultural and educational development of the
160 state, (4) to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in
161 public and private institutions of higher education, (5) to maintain
162 standards of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state
163 institutions of higher education, (6) to [apply the resources of higher
164 education to the] respond to the needs and problems of society, [and]
165 (7) to foster flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher
166 education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy,
167 society, technology and student interests, (8) to promote the economic
168 development of the state in order to help business and industry sustain
169 strong economic growth, (9) to ensure affordability of higher education
170 and efficient use of resources, and (10) to join with elementary and
171 secondary schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels. Said
172 board shall review recent studies of the need for higher education
173 services, with special attention to those completed pursuant to
174 legislative action, and to meet such needs shall initiate additional
175 programs or services through one or more of the constituent units.

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

177 (d) The board of governors shall request and receive, or be provided
178 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the

179 constituent units of the state system of higher education that is
180 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this
181 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	10a-6

Statement of Purpose:

To require the development and implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education that identifies short and long-term state goals for higher education and includes benchmarks for achieving such goals.

[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.]