



General Assembly

Amendment

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Offered by:

SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.

REP. WILLIS, 64th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 858

File No. 330

Cal. No. 221

"AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES."

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the
4 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

5 (a) There is established a [Blue Ribbon Commission] Planning
6 Commission for Higher Education to develop and [implement] ensure
7 the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education in
8 Connecticut.

9 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:
10 (A) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
11 Representatives, who shall have experience as former administrators
12 or faculty members in independent institutions of higher education in
13 this state; (B) two members appointed by the president pro tempore of

14 the Senate, one of whom shall be a former administrator or faculty
15 member of a regional community-technical college and one of whom
16 shall be a former administrator or faculty member of The University of
17 Connecticut; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
18 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a former
19 administrator or faculty member of a state university in the
20 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a
21 former administrator or faculty member of Charter Oak State College;
22 (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one
23 of whom shall have experience in the field of arts and culture and one
24 of whom shall have experience in the field of health care; (E) two
25 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
26 Representatives who shall have knowledge and expertise in science
27 and technology; (F) two members appointed by the minority leader of
28 the Senate who shall represent state-wide business organizations; and
29 (G) four members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall
30 represent a nonprofit education foundation, one of whom shall have
31 experience in university research and its commercial application and
32 one of whom shall have experience in the field of education from
33 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive. The commission
34 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic
35 diversity.

36 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
37 members on the commission: (A) The Commissioners of Higher
38 Education, Education and Economic and Community Development,
39 and the Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) the chairpersons
40 of the boards of trustees and the chief executive officers of each
41 constituent unit of the state system of higher education, or their
42 designees; (C) the chairperson of the board and president of the
43 Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, or their designees;
44 (D) the director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, or the
45 director's designee; (E) the chairpersons and ranking members of the
46 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
47 of matters relating to higher education and employment advancement;

48 and (F) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the
49 secretary's designee.

50 (3) The commission shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. Any
51 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each
52 appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the
53 date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without
54 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the
55 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and
56 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it
57 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The
58 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to
59 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds
60 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

61 (b) [The] In accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of
62 section 10a-6, the commission shall develop and ensure the
63 implementation of a strategic master plan that: [promotes the
64 following overall goals for higher education in this state: (1) Ensure
65 equal access and opportunity to post-secondary education for all state
66 residents, (2) promote student achievement, including student
67 performance, retention and graduation, (3) promote economic
68 competitiveness in the state, (4) improve access to higher education for
69 minorities and nontraditional students, including, but not limited to,
70 part-time students, incumbent workers, adult learners, former inmates
71 and immigrants, and (5) ensure the state's obligation to provide
72 adequate funding for higher education.

73 (c) The commission shall:]

74 (1) [Examine] Examines the impact of [demographics and]
75 demographic, workforce and education trends on higher education in
76 the state;

77 [(2) Address the challenges related to increasing the number of
78 young people in the state earning a bachelor's degree, increasing the
79 number of young people entering the state's workforce and the

80 disparity in the achievement gap between minority students and the
81 general student population;

82 (3) Develop and implement a strategic master plan for higher
83 education that identifies specific short-term and long-term goals for
84 the state that reflect the unique missions of each constituent unit of the
85 state system of higher education and each independent institution of
86 higher education in the state and includes benchmarks for achieving
87 those goals by 2010, 2015 and 2020;

88 (4) Examine funding policies for higher education including]

89 (2) (A) Establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2020 to increase the
90 number of people earning a bachelor degree, associate degree or
91 certificate, increases the number of people successfully completing
92 coursework at the community college level and the number of people
93 entering the state's workforce and eliminates the postsecondary
94 achievement gap between minority students and the general student
95 population, and (B) includes specific strategies for meeting such goals,
96 as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant to subdivision (2)
97 of subsection (a) of section 10a-6;

98 (3) Examines and recommends changes to funding policies,
99 practices and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices
100 with the goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6, including an
101 evaluation of the use of strategic and performance-based incentive
102 funding; (B) determine how the constituent units shall annually report
103 to the General Assembly and the public in a transparent and thorough
104 manner regarding each constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and
105 state support, including the state appropriation, personnel expenses,
106 personnel fringe benefits, capital improvement bonds and financial aid
107 to students; and (C) improve coordination of appropriation, tuition
108 and financial aid and seek ways to maximize funding through federal
109 and private grants; and

110 [(5) Recommend] (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent
111 unit of the state system of higher education and independent

112 institution of higher education in the state can, in a manner consistent
113 with such institution's mission, expand such institution's role in
114 advancing the state's economic growth. [; and]

115 [(6) Submit a biennium report prepared by the Department of
116 Higher Education to the Governor and the General Assembly on the
117 progress made toward achieving the benchmarks established in the
118 strategic plan.]

119 [(d)] (c) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission
120 shall review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6 and 10a-11. [and the
121 report titled "New England 2020: A Forecast of Educational
122 Attainment and its Implications for the Workforce of New England
123 States" prepared by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.] In
124 addition, the commission may consider the following: (1) Establishing
125 incentives for institutional performance and productivity; (2)
126 increasing financial aid incentive programs, especially in workforce
127 shortage areas and for minority students; (3) implementing mandatory
128 college preparatory curricula in high schools and aligning such
129 curricula with curricula in institutions of higher education; (4) seeking
130 partnerships with the business community and public institutions of
131 higher education to serve the needs of workforce retraining that may
132 include bridge programs in which businesses work directly with
133 higher education institutions to move students into identified
134 workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative partnerships
135 between public high schools and institutions of higher education; (6)
136 implementing programs in high school to assist high school students
137 seeking a college track or alternative pathways for post-secondary
138 education, such as vocational and technical opportunities; (7)
139 developing policies to promote and measure retention and graduation
140 rates of students, including graduation rates for students who have
141 transferred among two or more constituent units or public institutions
142 of higher education; (8) addressing the educational needs of minority
143 students and nontraditional students, including, but not limited to,
144 part-time students, incumbent workers, adult learners, former inmates
145 and immigrants, in order to increase enrollment and retention in

146 institutions of higher education; and (9) addressing the affordability of
147 tuition at institutions of higher education and the issue of increased
148 student indebtedness.

149 [(e)] (d) Not later than [October 1, 2008] January 1, 2012, the
150 commission shall submit a preliminary report on the development of
151 the strategic master plan and, not later than October 1, 2012, the
152 commission shall submit the strategic master plan, including specific
153 goals and benchmarks for the years ending [2010,] 2015 and 2020,
154 together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation and
155 funding to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the
156 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
157 education and employment advancement, education, commerce, labor
158 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

159 [(f) On or before January 1, 2009] (e) Not later than October 1, 2014,
160 and [biennially] annually thereafter, [until January 1, 2021,] the
161 commission shall submit a report, prepared by the Department of
162 Higher Education, to the Governor and not later than January 1, 2014,
163 and annually thereafter, to the joint standing committees of the
164 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
165 education and employment advancement, education, commerce, labor
166 and appropriations, in accordance with section 11-4a, on the
167 implementation of the plan and progress made toward achieving the
168 goals specified in the plan. The commission may periodically suggest
169 changes to the goals as necessary.

170 [(g) The commission shall terminate on January 1, 2021.]

171 Sec. 502. Subsection (d) of section 10a-178 of the general statutes is
172 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
173 *passage*):

174 (d) "Bonds" means bonds of the authority issued under the
175 provisions of this chapter, including refunding bonds,
176 notwithstanding that the same may be secured by mortgage or the full
177 faith and credit of the authority or the full faith and credit of a

178 participating institution for higher education, [or of] a participating
179 [hospital] health care institution, a participating corporation, a
180 participating nursing home or a participating qualified nonprofit
181 organization or any other lawfully pledged security of a participating
182 institution for higher education, [or of] a participating [hospital] health
183 care institution, a participating corporation, a participating nursing
184 home or a participating qualified nonprofit organization;

185 Sec. 503. Subsection (g) of section 10a-185 of the general statutes is
186 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
187 *passage*):

188 (g) The authority is further authorized and empowered to issue
189 bonds, notes or other obligations under this section the interest on
190 which may be includable in the gross income of the holder or holders
191 thereof under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent
192 corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time
193 to time amended, to the same extent and in the same manner that
194 interest on bills, notes, bonds or other obligations of the United States
195 is includable in the gross income of the holder or holders thereof under
196 any such internal revenue code, and to issue bonds, notes or other
197 obligations under this section that may be eligible for tax credits or
198 exemptions or payments from the federal government, or any other
199 desired federal income tax treatment of such bonds, notes or other
200 obligations. Any such bonds, notes or other obligations may be issued
201 only upon a finding by the authority that such issuance is necessary, is
202 in the public interest, and is in furtherance of the purposes and powers
203 of the authority. The state hereby consents to such inclusion only for
204 the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority so authorized.

205 Sec. 504. (NEW) (*Effective August 31, 2011*) The Department of
206 Higher Education shall require each public institution of higher
207 education and each independent institution of higher education that
208 receives state funding to track the unique identifiers or state assigned
209 student identifiers, which are assigned by the Department of
210 Education to public school students, of all in-state students of such

211 institution until such students graduate from or terminate enrollment
212 at such institution.

213 Sec. 505. (NEW) (*Effective August 31, 2011*) The Department of
214 Education shall require all school districts to include on each student's
215 transcript such student's unique identifier or state assigned student
216 identifier."