



General Assembly

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Amendment

LCO No. 6388

SB0085806388SD0

Offered by:
SEN. BYE, 5th 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 Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the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 the
101 development of a finance model for the allocation of state
102 appropriations to the constituent units that includes both a base
103 amount of funding and the use of performance-based incentive
104 funding for at least a portion of such allocation; (B) determine how the
105 constituent units shall annually report to the General Assembly and
106 the public in a transparent and thorough manner regarding each
107 constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and state support, including
108 the state appropriation, personnel expenses, personnel fringe benefits,
109 capital improvement bonds and financial aid to students; and (C)
110 improve coordination of appropriation, tuition and financial aid and
111 seek ways to maximize funding through federal and private grants;
112 and

113 [(5) Recommend] (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent
114 unit of the state system of higher education and independent
115 institution of higher education in the state can, in a manner consistent
116 with such institution's mission, expand such institution's role in
117 advancing the state's economic growth. [; and]

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

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

147 part-time students, incumbent workers, adult learners, former inmates
148 and immigrants, in order to increase enrollment and retention in
149 institutions of higher education; and (9) addressing the affordability of
150 tuition at institutions of higher education and the issue of increased
151 student indebtedness.

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

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

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