



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5296

February Session, 2012

* _____HB05296VA_HED030912_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING COURSE ENROLLMENT FEE WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THEIR DEPENDANTS ENROLLED AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-143 of the 2012 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective from passage*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in concert with the
5 state's institutions of higher education, shall study, develop and
6 coordinate the implementation of new methods of awarding
7 undergraduate degrees and college credits including, but not limited
8 to: (1) External degrees awarded on the basis of acceptable
9 performance in an educational field whether or not the necessary
10 education was obtained by the candidate at an institution of higher
11 education, and (2) examinations and methods other than classroom
12 instruction for determining qualifications. On or before July 1, 1993,
13 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education shall
14 establish procedures to award college credits pursuant to this
15 subsection and subsection (e) of this section.

16 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate
17 regulations to authorize accredited institutions of higher education to

18 award degrees by such new procedures.

19 (c) There shall continue to be a Board for State Academic Awards
20 which shall be an independent constituent unit of the state system of
21 higher education with authority to grant undergraduate and graduate
22 credits and degrees on the basis of (1) examinations, (2) courses offered
23 by Charter Oak State College, and (3) other forms of evaluation and
24 validation of learning including transfer of credit. Said board is
25 authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State College" on diplomas
26 and other documents and utterances to affirm the status of the board
27 as a degree-granting institution of higher education. It shall be the
28 responsibility of the board to serve the interest of all Connecticut
29 residents by providing open access to academic credentials which are
30 based on a consensus of professional judgment. The purpose of such
31 credentials shall be to identify and give recognition to higher learning
32 acquired by individuals through independent study, work experience
33 and programs of noncollegiate educational activity.

34 (d) Beginning on January 1, 2012, the Board of Regents for Higher
35 Education shall serve as the Board for State Academic Awards. The
36 members of the Board for State Academic Awards in office on June 30,
37 2011, shall remain in office to provide assistance in transitioning duties
38 and responsibilities to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
39 during the period of July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011. For the
40 transition period of July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011, any action of
41 the Board for State Academic Awards shall not be final until ratified by
42 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Until December 31, 2011,
43 the Board for State Academic Awards shall consist of nine persons,
44 eight to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the state's
45 geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; one of whom shall be an
46 alumnus of Charter Oak State College; and one to be elected by the
47 students enrolled in Charter Oak State College. On or before July 1,
48 1983, the Governor shall appoint two members of the board for a term
49 of two years from said date, two members for a term of four years
50 from said date and one member for a term of six years from said date.

51 On or before July 1, 1984, the Governor shall appoint one member for a
52 term of three years from said date. On or before July 1, 1996, the
53 Governor shall appoint two members, one for a term of five years from
54 said date and one for a term of one year from said date. Thereafter the
55 Governor shall appoint members of said board to succeed those
56 appointees whose terms expire, such members to serve for terms of six
57 years each from July first in the year of their appointment. On or
58 before November 1, 1984, and biennially thereafter, the students
59 enrolled with the board shall, in such manner as the board shall
60 determine, elect one member of the board, who shall serve for a term
61 of two years from November first in the year of his election. No
62 member of said board, appointed by the Governor, shall be an
63 employee of an institution of postsecondary or higher education. No
64 member who has served consecutively for two full terms or portions
65 thereof may again be appointed until two years have passed. The
66 Governor shall, pursuant to section 4-9a, appoint the chairperson of
67 the board. The board shall, annually, elect from its members such other
68 officers as it deems necessary. The Governor shall fill any vacancies in
69 the membership of said board by appointment for the balance of the
70 unexpired term. The members of said board shall receive no
71 compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for
72 their necessary expenses in the course of their duties. The board shall
73 meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times
74 as the chairperson deems necessary or upon the request of a majority
75 of members in office. Any member who fails to attend three
76 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all
77 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have
78 resigned from office.

79 (e) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop and
80 implement programs to improve opportunities in higher education
81 through alternative modes of service, including, but not limited to,
82 guidance and information services, registration and validation
83 services, examination and degree-granting services, technological
84 delivery systems, and projects of research and development. With

85 respect to its own operation the board may appoint and remove an
86 executive director, who shall be the chief academic and administrative
87 officer, and a professional academic staff. The board may appoint and
88 remove executive staff responsible for the operation of the Board for
89 State Academic Awards. The board may determine the size of the
90 academic staff and the duties, terms, and conditions of employment of
91 said director and staff. The board shall establish through appointments
92 on an adjunct basis a faculty of consulting examiners to make
93 recommendations as to requirements and standards of the board's
94 programs and to make recommendations for the award of academic
95 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees. Persons serving as
96 members of the faculty of consulting examiners shall have appropriate
97 professional qualifications as determined by the board and may hold
98 professional appointments in active status at accredited institutions of
99 postsecondary or higher learning. Within the limit of appropriations,
100 the board shall fix the compensation of persons serving with adjunct
101 appointment as members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The
102 board shall confer such undergraduate and graduate certificates and
103 degrees as are appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher
104 learning and in accordance with the recommendations of the board's
105 faculty of consulting examiners on the basis of (A) examinations, (B)
106 courses offered by Charter Oak State College, and (C) other forms of
107 validation and evaluation of learning, including transfer of credit. The
108 board shall assist public institutions of higher education in establishing
109 and implementing procedures to award college credits pursuant to
110 subsection (a) of this section.

111 (2) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop a mission
112 statement which shall include, but not be limited to, the following
113 elements: (A) The educational needs of, and constituencies served by
114 the board; (B) the degrees offered by the board; and (C) the role and
115 scope of the programs offered by the board.

116 (f) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other
117 purposes as the board deems necessary and may make refunds and

118 other disposition of same as provided by law or regulation. The board
119 may make contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
120 responsibilities.

121 (g) The Board for State Academic Awards shall establish and
122 administer a fund to be known as the Board for State Academic
123 Awards Operating Fund, which shall be a separate account within the
124 General Fund. The operating fund shall be used for the expenses of the
125 board, including personnel expenses and equipment, and for the
126 support of board activities pursuant to this section, including
127 validation and evaluation of learning, guidance and public
128 information services, projects of research and development for the
129 improvement of learning materials and the technology of delivery
130 systems, and for the purchase of such services, materials and
131 equipment as are required for use in connection with said activities.
132 Appropriations from general revenues of the state, all fees and
133 proceeds of the board's activities, including grants and donations, not
134 required by statute or regulation to be deposited to the credit of the
135 General Fund, shall be credited to and become a part of the resources
136 of said operating fund. Any balance of receipts above expenditures
137 shall remain in said operating fund.

138 (h) The Board for State Academic Awards shall promote fund-
139 raising to assist its programs pursuant to this section and shall report
140 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
141 cognizance of matters relating to higher education by January 1, 1994,
142 and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising.

143 (i) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall waive the
144 payment of course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College (A) for
145 any resident of the state who is a dependent child between sixteen and
146 twenty-three years of age of a resident of the state who (i) was killed in
147 action while performing active military duty with the armed forces of
148 the United States, or (ii) has served or is serving in the armed forces of
149 the United States, has a disability rating of one hundred per cent as
150 determined by the Veterans' Administration of the United States, (B)

151 subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection,
152 for any veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined in
153 subsection (a) of section 27-103, except that for purposes of this
154 subdivision, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in
155 attendance at a military service academy, who has been accepted for
156 admission to Charter Oak State College and is domiciled in this state at
157 the time such veteran is accepted for admission to Charter Oak State
158 College, and (C) for any active member of the Connecticut Army or Air
159 National Guard who (i) has been certified by the Adjutant General or
160 the Adjutant General's designee as a member in good standing of the
161 guard, and (ii) is enrolled or accepted for admission to Charter Oak
162 State College on a full-time or part-time basis in a degree-granting
163 program. If any person who receives a course enrollment fee waiver in
164 accordance with the provisions of this subdivision also receives
165 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be
166 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans
167 and members of the National Guard described in this subdivision shall
168 be given the same status as students not receiving course enrollment
169 fee waivers in registering for courses at Charter Oak State College.
170 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this
171 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one
172 year.

173 (2) If any veteran described in subdivision (1) of this subsection has
174 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11
175 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the Board for State
176 Academic Awards shall waive the payment of course enrollment fees
177 at Charter Oak State College for such veteran in accordance with
178 subdivision (3) of this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said
179 board that such veteran's application for such federal educational
180 assistance has been denied or withdrawn, said board shall waive the
181 payment of course enrollment fees in accordance with subdivision (1)
182 of this subsection.

183 (3) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran course enrollment

184 fee benefit" means the portion of federal educational assistance under
185 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid
186 to Charter Oak State College on behalf of a veteran described in
187 subdivision (1) of this subsection that represents payment for course
188 enrollment fees. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i) the
189 total amount of federal educational assistance to be paid to Charter
190 Oak State College on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained
191 by dividing (I) the actual course enrollment fees charged by Charter
192 Oak State College to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual course
193 enrollment fees and other fees charged by Charter Oak State College to
194 such veteran.

195 (B) Said board shall waive the payment of course enrollment fees in
196 excess of the veteran course enrollment fee benefit at Charter Oak State
197 College for such veteran.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10a-143

VA

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

HED