



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 671

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5361

House of Representatives, April 24, 2014

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN FOR PARTICIPATION IN A STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2015, the
2 Office of Higher Education shall (1) develop a plan to enter into a
3 multistate or regional reciprocity agreement that will allow for
4 participation by the state and Connecticut institutions of higher
5 education in a nation-wide state authorization reciprocity agreement
6 establishing uniform standards for distance learning programs across
7 states and eliminating the need for a state participating in such nation-
8 wide state authorization reciprocity agreement to assess the quality of
9 a distance learning program offered by an out-of-state institution of
10 higher education through such participating state's traditional
11 authorization, licensing and accreditation process, and (2) report on
12 such plan to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
13 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education in
14 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to develop a plan regarding a nation-wide state authorization reciprocity agreement establishing uniform standards for distance learning programs. This is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as OHE has staff who are qualified to assist in the creation of the plan.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

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AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN FOR PARTICIPATION IN A STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (04/15/2014)