



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 22

February Session, 2014

Senate Bill No. 19

Senate, March 18, 2014

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. CASSANO, S. of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-35a of the 2014 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

4 (a) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, the Board
5 of Regents for Higher Education shall have the authority, in
6 accordance with the provisions of said sections [10a-34 to 10a-35,
7 inclusive, over academic degrees awarded by the state colleges within
8 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
9 technical colleges and the Board for State Academic Awards, including
10 the (1) operation of such public institutions of higher education and
11 the programs offered by such public institutions of higher education,
12 (2) licensure and accreditation of such public institutions of higher
13 education and programs offered by such public institutions of higher

14 education, (3) evaluation and approval of applications to confer
 15 academic degrees made by such public institutions of higher
 16 education, and (4) assessment of any violation by such public
 17 institutions of higher education of the authority of said board as
 18 described in subdivisions (1) to (3), inclusive, of this section and the
 19 imposition of a penalty for such violation] and the standards set forth
 20 in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to (1) review and approve
 21 recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs for
 22 the universities within the Connecticut State University System, the
 23 regional community-technical colleges and the Board for State
 24 Academic Awards, and (2) report all new programs and program
 25 changes to the Office of Higher Education.

26 (b) Notwithstanding sections 10a-34 to 10a-35, inclusive, the Board
 27 of Trustees for The University of Connecticut shall (1) have the
 28 authority, in accordance with the provisions of said sections and the
 29 standards set forth in any regulations promulgated thereunder, to
 30 review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new
 31 academic programs at the university, and (2) report all new programs
 32 and program changes to the Office of Higher Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	10a-35a

HED *Joint Favorable*

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 results in no fiscal impact as it clarifies that the academic standards set forth in regulation regarding academic programs apply to all institutions of higher education and that public institutions of higher education may have their own processes for program approval.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 19*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, UConn and the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) are authorized to review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs. (Current law uses the term “academic degree” for BOR.) UConn has authority concerning its own programs and BOR has authority concerning programs for the Connecticut State University System, regional community-technical colleges, and Charter Oak State College.

This bill specifies that, when approving academic programs, (1) UConn must follow certain statutory requirements (the law already requires BOR to do so) and (2) both BOR and UConn must follow regulations promulgated by the Office of Higher Education. The statutory and regulatory requirements concern administration, finance, faculty, curricula, library, student admission and graduation, plant and equipment, records, catalogs, program announcements, and any other pertinent criteria.

The bill also (1) eliminates BOR’s authority to impose penalties on public institutions for violating program approval and licensure and accreditation requirements and (2) makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 2 (03/04/2014)