



CONNECTICUT STATE  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Testimony by Ernestine Weaver, Counsel**  
Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities  
Presented to the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee  
February 11, 2014

Senators Cassano and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for your consideration on **House Bill 5028, *An Act Concerning Revisions to the Higher Education Statutes***. For the record, my name is Ernestine Weaver and I am Counsel for the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs our state's four state universities, 12 community colleges and Charter Oak State College. Collectively, we are known as the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities.

The Board of Regents has submitted three minor revisions to the Committee for consideration. Unfortunately, they were not submitted in time for this first draft. I would like to call them to your attention for inclusion as you continue to refine this bill. Your legislative attorney has received these proposals and I have attached them for your review.

First, we request a modification to section 10a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes for the purpose of classifying the system of the Board of Regents of Higher Education as a constituent unit. Prior to consolidation, the system office for each constituent unit was considered part of the constituent unit. As a result, the system was able to contract on behalf of its constituent unit. Moreover, the system as a constituent unit was able to form a foundation, such as the CSUS Foundation, on behalf of the system. The current system office functions similarly to the manner in which the previous system offices operated. Labeling such system as a constituent unit is consistent with past practice. It appears that the reason that the system office is not currently considered part of the constituent units is because the nomenclature Board of Regents for Higher Education is used to refer to the Board of Regents as it assumes the role of the former Board of Governors as well as to refer to the consolidated system.

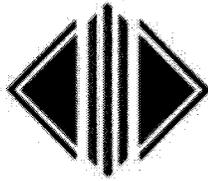
Though we previously submitted this change to the legislative attorney, we request the following language be substituted for our original request:

**Sec. 10a-1:** There shall be a state system of public higher education to consist of (1) The University of Connecticut and all campuses thereof, (2) the state colleges, which shall be known collectively as the Connecticut State University System, (3) the regional community-technical colleges, (4) the Board for State Academic Awards, and (5) [the staff of the Board of Regents for Higher Education] the Board of Regents for Higher Education consolidated system for the regional community technical colleges, Connecticut State University System, and Charter Oak State College as established pursuant to section 10a-1a. "Constituent units" as used in the general statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to [(4)] (5), inclusive, of this section.

Second, subsection (c) of section 10a-1b requires the Board to appoint a vice-president for each constituent unit. Constituent unit as defined in the state statutes includes the University of Connecticut. In practice, the Board appoints one vice-president for the Connecticut State University system and one for the community college system. Language is attached in the supporting materials.

Finally, to clarify powers that exist within Charter Oak State College and powers that are held by the Board and the system office, we have submitted a request to eliminate the use of the term "Board for State Academic Awards." Our request reassigns the powers and responsibilities of the various statutes using this name to either the Board or the College as appropriate. Language for this change is also included in the supporting document.

Please contact Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager, at 860-692-2350 should you have any questions regarding this testimony or the attached language.



# CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

## 2014 Legislative Proposals

### Minor Revisions

**Document Name** (e.g. OPM1015Budget.doc; OTG1015Policy.doc):

**011514\_BOR\_MinorRevisions**

(If submitting an electronically, please label with date, agency, and title of proposal – 092611\_SDE\_TechRevisions)

State Agency:

Board of Regents for Higher Education

Liaison: Kyle Thomas

Phone: 860-723-0017

E-mail: Thomask@ct.edu

Lead agency division requesting this proposal: N/A

Agency Analyst/Drafter of Proposal: Kyle Thomas/Ernestine Weaver

**Title of Proposal**

**AAC Minor Revisions to the Higher Education Statutes**

**Statutory Reference:** 10a-1, 10a-1b, 10a-6, Various others – for the purpose of a name change

**Proposal Summary**

The proposal changes several provisions of Title 10a of the General Statutes to accomplish the following:

- Clarify that the BOR has the authorities of a constituent unit of higher education
- Clarify the appointments of vice-presidents of the BOR
- Remove references to the Board of State Academic Awards and replace with Charter Oak State College or Board of Regents as appropriate

*Please attach a copy of fully drafted bill (required for review)*

### PROPOSAL BACKGROUND

- Reason for Proposal

Please consider the following, if applicable:

- (1) Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary?
- (2) Has this proposal or something similar been implemented in other states? If yes, what is the outcome(s)?
- (3) Have certain constituencies called for this action?
- (4) What would happen if this was not enacted in law this session?

The primary rationale for the proposal is continued refinement of the statutes overhauled in 2011 as part of the consolidation and restructuring of the public system of higher education.

- **Origin of Proposal**                       **New Proposal**                       **Resubmission**

If this is a resubmission, please share:

- (1) What was the reason this proposal did not pass, or if applicable, was not included in the Administration's package?
- (2) Have there been negotiations/discussions during or after the previous legislative session to improve this proposal?
- (3) Who were the major stakeholders/advocates/legislators involved in the previous work on this legislation?
- (4) What was the last action taken during the past legislative session?

#### PROPOSAL IMPACT

- **Agencies Affected** (please list for each affected agency)

Agency Name: Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Date Contacted:  Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
<b>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments</b>
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Agency Name: Agency Contact (name, title, phone): Date Contacted:  Approve of Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Talks Ongoing
<b>Summary of Affected Agency's Comments</b>
Will there need to be further negotiation? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

- **Fiscal Impact** (please include the proposal section that causes the fiscal impact and the anticipated impact)

<b>Municipal</b> (please include any municipal mandate that can be found within legislation)
<b>State</b>
<b>Federal</b>
Additional notes on fiscal impact

- **Policy and Programmatic Impacts** (Please specify the proposal section associated with the impact)

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Sec. x Section 10a-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective upon passage*).

(a) There shall be a state system of public higher education to consist of (1) The University of Connecticut and all campuses thereof, (2) the state colleges, which shall be known collectively as the Connecticut State University System, (3) the regional community-technical colleges, (4) the Board for State Academic Awards and, (5) the staff of the Board of Regents for Higher Education as established pursuant to section 10a-1a. "Constituent units" as used in the general statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to ~~(4)~~ (5), inclusive, of this section.

Section x: Subsection (c) of section 10a-1b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*).

(c) Upon recommendation of the president, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall appoint two vice-presidents; One vice president shall represent ~~each constituent unit~~ the Connecticut State University system and the other vice president shall represent the regional-community technical colleges. Each vice president shall perform such duties and responsibilities as the board and president shall prescribe, so that each said constituent unit fulfills its mission. Such duties shall include, but not be limited to, oversight of academic programs, student support services and institutional support.

Sec. x (*NEW*) (*Effective July 1, 2014*): (a) Wherever the term "Board for State Academic Awards" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the term "Charter Oak State College" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 10a-1, 10a-8, 10a-25h, and 10a-25i.

(b) Wherever the term "Board for State Academic Awards" is used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the term "Board of Regents for Higher Education" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 3-27a, 10a-

143, 10a-143a, 10a-143b and 10a-149.

(c) The Legislative Commissioners' office shall, in codifying the provisions of this section, make such technical, conforming, grammatical and punctuation changes as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.