



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 159**

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5376

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2014*

The Committee on Program Review and Investigations reported through REP. MUSHINSKY of the 85th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Board of Regents for Higher  
2 Education shall (1) conduct a feasibility study to examine the potential  
3 for expanding the manufacturing technology center model to create  
4 centers of excellence, as defined in section 10a-25h of the general  
5 statutes, for other high-demand career areas, and (2) implement the  
6 Plus 50 Initiative model throughout the regional community-technical  
7 college system. The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall  
8 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
9 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
10 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and labor on  
11 the results of the feasibility study and the implementation status not

12 later than July 1, 2015.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2015,  
14 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish consistent  
15 parameters for noncredit vocational courses and programs to be  
16 recognized by each of the constituent units of the state system of public  
17 higher education, as described in section 10a-1 of the general statutes.

18 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the Board of  
19 Regents for Higher Education shall require each of the constituent  
20 units of the state system of public higher education to collect and  
21 report to the Board of Regents the following information regarding  
22 such noncredit vocational courses and programs: (1) Total enrollment  
23 and completion rates for such courses and programs, (2) participant  
24 demographic information, including, but not limited to, age and  
25 gender, and (3) the employment status, job retention and wage rates  
26 for students both prior to enrolling in and after completion of such  
27 courses and programs. The Board of Regents for Higher Education  
28 shall collaborate with the Labor Commissioner to obtain information  
29 as needed to carry out the provisions of this section.

30 Sec. 3. Section 10a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

32 (a) The accountability measures developed by the Higher Education  
33 Coordinating Council pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10a-6a shall  
34 be used by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and each  
35 constituent unit of the state system of higher education in assessing  
36 each public institution of higher education's progress toward meeting  
37 the following goals to: (1) Enhance student learning and promote  
38 academic excellence; (2) join with elementary and secondary schools to  
39 improve teaching and learning at all levels; (3) ensure access to and  
40 affordability of higher education; (4) promote the economic  
41 development of the state to help business and industry sustain strong  
42 economic growth; (5) respond to the needs and problems of society;  
43 and (6) ensure the efficient use of resources. The council shall develop  
44 an implementation plan for use of the accountability measures.

45 (b) In developing the measures pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
46 section, the council shall consider: [graduation] (1) Graduation rates,  
47 (2) student retention rates, (3) completions, (4) tuition and fees, (5)  
48 allocation of resources across expenditure functions, as defined by the  
49 National Association of College and University Business Officers, (6)  
50 revenues and expenditures broken out by programs, (7) student  
51 financial need and available aid, (8) transfer patterns of students  
52 transferring in and out of the constituent units, (9) trends in enrollment  
53 and the percentage of incoming students who are state residents, (10)  
54 strategic plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data on graduates,  
55 including age, by academic [program,] and noncredit vocational  
56 course and program, (12) faculty productivity, and (13) any other  
57 factor that it deems relevant. All measures shall be made available for  
58 inspection and separated out by constituent unit, institution of higher  
59 education, campus and program.

60 (c) The council shall work with the Labor Department to (1) produce  
61 periodic reports, capable of being sorted by student age, on the  
62 employment status, job retention and earnings of students enrolled in  
63 academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior  
64 to enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who  
65 leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise, and (2)  
66 develop an annual affordability index for public higher education that  
67 is based on state-wide median family income.

68 (d) The council shall submit the accountability measures to the  
69 Board of Regents for Higher Education for the board's review and  
70 approval. Once the measures are approved, each constituent unit shall  
71 provide the data to the board that is necessary for purposes of  
72 applying the measures.

73 (e) Each public institution of higher education of the state system of  
74 higher education shall submit an accountability report to the president  
75 of the Board of Regents for Higher Education annually, by November  
76 first. The president shall compile the reports and shall submit, in  
77 accordance with section 11-4a, a consolidated accountability report for

78 the state system of higher education to the joint standing committee of  
79 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
80 education annually, by December first. The report shall contain  
81 accountability measures for each constituent unit and public  
82 institution of higher education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of  
83 this section. The report shall include updated baseline and peer  
84 comparison data, performance improvement targets for each measure,  
85 and other information as determined by the president.

86 Sec. 4. Section 10a-161a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
87 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

88 The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the  
89 Office of Higher Education shall report, biennially, in accordance with  
90 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the  
91 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
92 education on state, northeast regional and national trends in (1) the  
93 cost of attendance at public and independent institutions of higher  
94 education and private occupational schools, and (2) the availability  
95 and utilization of all forms of student financial aid for academic and  
96 noncredit vocational courses and programs relative to economic  
97 conditions and personal income.

98 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Board of Regents for Higher  
99 Education and the Office of Higher Education shall conduct a study of  
100 financial aid options for students enrolled in noncredit vocational  
101 courses and programs, including low interest loans whose payment  
102 may be subject to a sliding scale depending on income or deferred  
103 until the student is employed. The Board of Regents for Higher  
104 Education and the Office of Higher Education shall report, in  
105 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
106 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
107 cognizance of matters relating to higher education on the results of  
108 such study not later than January 1, 2015.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	10a-6b
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	10a-161a
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

**PRI**      *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.

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

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state as the Board of Regents for Higher Education has sufficient expertise to carry out the research and reporting requirements of the bill.

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5376*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE REEMPLOYMENT OF OLDER WORKERS AS THEY RELATE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes several reporting requirements concerning noncredit vocational courses and programs in public higher education institutions. The reporting requirements include (1) enrollment and completion rates; (2) participants' demographic information; (3) participants' employment, job retention, and earnings; and (4) financial aid availability. Under the bill, entities that must report some or all of this information are public higher education institutions, the Higher Education Coordinating Council, Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), and Office of Higher Education (OHE).

The bill also requires BOR to (1) study the feasibility of expanding the manufacturing technology center model to create centers of excellence for other high-demand careers and (2) implement the Plus 50 Initiative model throughout regional community-technical college system (CTC). Under the bill, a center of excellence is a distinctive or potentially distinctive instructional, research, or public service program at a public higher education institution. The Plus 50 Initiative (which is not defined in the bill) is a national project to benchmark the most current and innovative programs at community colleges that engage learners age 50 and older. BOR must report on the feasibility study and implementation status to the Higher Education and Labor committees by July 1, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014, except for the provision concerning

the biennial financial aid report, which is effective October 1, 2014.

## **NONCREDIT VOCATIONAL COURSES**

### **§ 2 — *Institutional Reporting***

The bill requires BOR, by July 1, 2015, to establish consistent parameters for noncredit vocational courses and programs to be recognized by each constituent unit of higher education (i.e., UConn, the Connecticut State University System, CTC, and Charter Oak State College). BOR must require each constituent unit, annually by July 1, 2016, to collect and report to it (1) total enrollment and completion rates for such courses and programs; (2) participants' demographic information, including age and gender; and (3) the employment status, job retention, and wage rates for students both before enrolling in and after completing the courses and programs. BOR must collaborate with the labor commissioner to obtain necessary information for implementing these requirements.

### **§ 3 — *Higher Education Coordinating Council***

By law, the Higher Education Coordinating Council must develop accountability measures for each constituent unit and public higher education institution. In doing so, it must consider several factors, including data on graduates by academic program. The bill specifies that the graduate data must include graduates' ages and be grouped by academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs.

By law, the council must work with the Department of Labor to, among other things, produce periodic reports on the employment and earnings of students who leave the constituent units of higher education. The bill requires that these reports (1) be capable of being sorted by student age; (2) include students enrolled in academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs; (3) specify the students' employment status and job retention; and (4) include their employment status, job retention, and earnings both before enrolling in and after completing the courses and programs.

### **§§ 4 & 5 — *Financial Aid***

By law, BOR and OHE must report biennially on (1) state, northeast regional, and national trends in the cost of attendance at public and independent higher education institutions and private occupational schools and (2) the availability and utilization of all forms of student financial aid relative to economic conditions and personal income. The bill specifies that the financial aid portion of the report must include financial aid for academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs. The bill requires the report to be submitted to the Higher Education Committee, rather than the Education Committee as under current law.

The bill also requires BOR and OHE to study financial aid options for students enrolled in noncredit vocational courses and programs. The options must include low-interest loans whose payment may be subject to a sliding scale depending on income or deferred until the student is employed. BOR and OHE must report to the Higher Education Committee by January 1, 2015.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)