



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 251**

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5435

*House of Representatives, April 1, 2014*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Legislative Program Review  
2 and Investigations Committee shall evaluate the effectiveness of  
3 certificate programs offered by the regional community-technical  
4 colleges, the Connecticut State University System, Charter Oak State  
5 College and private occupational schools. The evaluation shall include:

6 (1) An inventory of such programs, including, but not limited to,  
7 available information regarding (A) the types and number of  
8 certificates offered, (B) the cost to students of each certificate program,  
9 (C) whether an institution of higher education awards academic credit  
10 for courses completed as part of the certificate program or for  
11 completion of the entire certificate program, (D) the length of each  
12 certificate program, (E) the completion rates for each certificate  
13 program, (F) any patterns of enrollment in each certificate program,

14 (G) the number of certificate programs that lead to an industry  
 15 certification, (H) the employment placement rates of students upon  
 16 completion of or within one year after completing each certificate  
 17 program, (I) the rate at which students are employed in a field that is  
 18 related to the subject matter area of a student's certificate program  
 19 upon completion of or after completing such program, (J) the average  
 20 income of students who are employed upon completion of or who  
 21 secure employment within one year after completing each certificate  
 22 program, and (K) the number and types of certificate programs that  
 23 are limited to employees of a specific company; and

24 (2) An examination of (A) the processes used to develop and renew  
 25 certificate programs, (B) the available supply of potential students for  
 26 each certificate program, (C) the market demand for jobs requiring  
 27 each certificate, (D) barriers to enrollment and completion of certificate  
 28 programs, including barriers of awareness and affordability of and  
 29 accessibility to such programs, (E) the completion rates of certificate  
 30 programs offered in Connecticut as compared to the completion rates  
 31 of certificate programs offered in other states, and (F) best practices for  
 32 the development and operation of certificate programs.

33 (b) Not later than January 15, 2015, the Legislative Program Review  
 34 and Investigations Committee shall report, in accordance with the  
 35 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the  
 36 evaluation conducted in accordance with subsection (a) of this section,  
 37 including any recommendations of said committee to improve  
 38 certificate program offerings and boost completion rates of each  
 39 certificate program, to the joint standing committee of the General  
 40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education  
 41 and employment advancement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section

**HED**      *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 requires the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of higher educational certificate programs and issue a report by January 15, 2015. This is not expected to result in a fiscal impact as it is likely that the committee would rearrange its' 2014 project agenda to accommodate this study.

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

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 5435**

***AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)