



# House of Representatives

**File No. 823**

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**(Reprint of File No. 224)**

Substitute House Bill No. 6117  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 14, 2015

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE  
TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this section and  
2 section 2 of this act:

3 (1) "Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium" means the division  
4 of Charter Oak State College that provides services and support to  
5 help educators develop and deliver effective technology-enhanced  
6 learning opportunities to students and adults in the workforce;

7 (2) "Open educational resources" includes the full courses, course  
8 materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software and  
9 other similar teaching, learning and research resources that reside in  
10 the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property  
11 license that permits the free use and repurposing of such resources;

12 (3) "Open license" means a world-wide, royalty-free, nonexclusive,  
13 perpetual and irrevocable copyright license granting the public  
14 permission to access, reproduce, publicly perform, publicly display,

15 adapt, distribute and otherwise use, for any purpose, the work and  
16 adaptations of such work when credit or acknowledgment is given to  
17 any designated author of such work; and

18 (4) "Open-source textbook" means a college-level textbook licensed  
19 under an open license and made available on an Internet web site to be  
20 used by students, faculty and members of the public on an unlimited  
21 basis at minimal or no cost.

22 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education and The University  
23 of Connecticut shall each establish an open-source textbook pilot  
24 program to (1) assess the use of high-quality digital open-source  
25 textbooks, and (2) promote the use of and access to open-source  
26 textbooks within their respective constituent units. The programming  
27 for such pilot programs, shall include, but not be limited to, seminars  
28 and workshops on awareness and implementation of open-source  
29 textbooks and open educational resources for faculty and staff of the  
30 institutions of higher education under the jurisdiction of such  
31 constituent units and workshops on supportive open educational  
32 resources policy and administration for academic leaders of such  
33 institutions. The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium may share  
34 such programming with its private members at a cost to be determined  
35 by said consortium.

36 (c) Not later than July 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents  
37 for Higher Education and the president of The University of  
38 Connecticut shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
39 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
40 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
41 education, regarding such pilot programs. Such report shall include (1)  
42 an analysis of the potential cost savings to students for courses using  
43 an open-source textbook in lieu of a traditional college-level textbook,  
44 and (2) the identification of any barriers to the effective use of open-  
45 source textbooks by students and faculty.

46 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to

47 study best practices with regard to open educational resources. The  
48 task force shall consider the development of a program to incentivize  
49 the creation or adaptation of open educational resources that will  
50 significantly reduce the cost to students of course materials, including,  
51 but not limited to, offering financial or academic or professional credit  
52 to faculty to create open educational resources.

53 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

54 (1) One faculty member and one administrator of The University of  
55 Connecticut, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of  
56 Representatives;

57 (2) One faculty member and one administrator of the regional  
58 community-technical college system, who shall be appointed by the  
59 president pro tempore of the Senate;

60 (3) One administrator of Charter Oak State College and one student  
61 of a public institution of higher education representing a formally  
62 recognized student organization, who shall be appointed by the  
63 majority leader of the House of Representatives;

64 (4) One faculty member of Charter Oak State College and one  
65 student of an independent institution of higher education in the state  
66 who represents a formally recognized student organization, who shall  
67 be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

68 (5) One faculty member and one administrator of the Connecticut  
69 State University System, who shall be appointed by the minority  
70 leader of the House of Representatives;

71 (6) One faculty member and one administrator of an independent  
72 institution of higher education, who shall be appointed by the minority  
73 leader of the Senate;

74 (7) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or  
75 the president's designee;

76 (8) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the  
77 president's designee;

78 (9) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the  
79 executive director's designee;

80 (10) The chief academic officer of The University of Connecticut, or  
81 the chief academic officer's designee; and

82 (11) The chief academic officer of the Board of Regents for Higher  
83 Education, or the chief academic officer's designee.

84 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
85 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
86 filled by the appointing authority.

87 (d) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the  
88 executive director's designee, shall schedule the first meeting of the  
89 task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the  
90 effective date of this section. The members of the task force shall select  
91 the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task  
92 force. One such chairperson shall be from an institution of higher  
93 education under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents for Higher  
94 Education, and the other such chairperson shall be from The  
95 University of Connecticut.

96 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
97 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
98 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

99 (f) Not later than October 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a report  
100 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee  
101 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
102 higher education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
103 the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
104 submits such report or October 1, 2016, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

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 as the constituent units of higher education are in part already carrying out the requirements of the bill and have the expertise necessary to meet the bill's requirements.

House "A" (LCO 7062) struck the original bill and eliminated its associated fiscal impact.

***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sHB 6117 (as amended by House "A")**

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TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 0    (03/12/2015)