



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 537**

*January Session, 2015*

Substitute House Bill No. 7007

*House of Representatives, April 8, 2015*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS, R. of the 64th 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 PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The policies of higher  
2 education in the state shall be consistent with the following goals  
3 adopted from the recommendations of the Planning Commission for  
4 Higher Education in the strategic master plan for higher education  
5 developed pursuant to section 10a-11b of the general statutes, as  
6 amended by this act:

7 (1) Increase the education levels of the adult population of the state,  
8 on or before January 1, 2025, to a target of not less than forty per cent  
9 of adults having earned a bachelor degree and not less than thirty per  
10 cent of adults having earned an associate degree or sub-baccalaureate  
11 certificate for purposes of ensuring the state has a workforce with the  
12 skills necessary for achieving and sustaining a competitive economy  
13 by measures including, but not limited to (A) reducing socioeconomic

14 disparities, (B) reducing the achievement gap between whites and  
15 minorities, as defined in section 10-155l of the general statutes, (C)  
16 improving the lives of residents living in the most urbanized areas of  
17 the cities of the state, and (D) ensuring that the quality of  
18 postsecondary education is improved;

19 (2) Develop a globally competitive workforce and economy in the  
20 state by cultivating an environment that attracts and retains a highly  
21 educated, diverse population by (A) aligning postsecondary degree  
22 attainment with the workforce needs of employers in the state, (B)  
23 contributing to the expansion and diversification of the state's  
24 economy through research and innovation, (C) establishing  
25 partnerships between institutions of higher education and business,  
26 civic and cultural leaders in the state, and (D) increasing the number of  
27 students engaged in community service, internships and other  
28 workplace-based learning experiences; and

29 (3) Ensure that higher education is affordable for the residents of the  
30 state by (A) narrowing the gap between the cost of attendance at an  
31 institution of higher education and family income, (B) reducing, on or  
32 before January 1, 2025, the average student loan to the national  
33 average, and (C) increasing, on or before January 1, 2025, by five per  
34 cent the number of recent high school graduates in the state who enroll  
35 in institutions of higher education in the state.

36 (b) For purposes of this section, "sub-baccalaureate certificate"  
37 means a postsecondary award earned on a for-credit basis and  
38 conferred upon successful completion of a formal postsecondary  
39 program below the baccalaureate level.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1b of the general statutes is  
41 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
42 *1, 2015*):

43 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall appoint a  
44 president who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The president of  
45 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall (1) have the authority

46 to implement the policies, directives and rules of the board and any  
47 additional responsibilities as the board may prescribe, (2) implement  
48 the goals identified in section 1 of this act and recommendations made  
49 pursuant to section 10a-11b, as amended by this act, (3) build  
50 interdependent support among the Connecticut State University  
51 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
52 Oak State College, (4) balance central authority with institutional  
53 differentiation, autonomy and creativity, and (5) facilitate cooperation  
54 and synergy among the Connecticut State University System, the  
55 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
56 College. Said president may designate an alternate to serve as a  
57 member of any commission, foundation or committee upon which the  
58 general statutes require said president to serve. Such designee may  
59 vote on behalf of said president. There shall be an executive staff  
60 responsible for the operation of the Board of Regents for Higher  
61 Education. The executive staff shall be under the direction of the  
62 president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, who shall be  
63 the chief executive officer of the Board of Regents for Higher  
64 Education.

65 Sec. 3. Section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

67 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish  
68 [state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public  
69 higher education] policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State  
70 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
71 and Charter Oak State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher  
72 education and postsecondary education [,] at the Connecticut State  
73 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
74 and Charter Oak State College consistent with the goals [in subsection  
75 (b) of this section] identified in section 1 of this act; (3) establish [state-  
76 wide] tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State  
77 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
78 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate [institutional]  
79 the effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional

80 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in  
81 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close  
82 institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the  
83 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
84 College in accordance with criteria established by the board, provided  
85 (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds  
86 vote of the board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or  
87 closing shall be sent to the committee having cognizance over matters  
88 relating to education and to the General Assembly; (6) review and  
89 approve mission statements for the Connecticut State University  
90 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
91 Oak State College and role and scope statements for the individual  
92 institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and  
93 approve any recommendations for the establishment of new academic  
94 programs submitted to the board by the state [colleges] universities  
95 within the Connecticut State University System, the regional  
96 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College, and, in  
97 consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the  
98 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; [The  
99 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall notify the board of  
100 trustees affected by the proposed termination of an academic program.  
101 Within ninety days of receipt of such notice, said trustees shall accept  
102 or reject the termination proposal and shall notify the Board of Regents  
103 for Higher Education of its action. If the termination proposal is  
104 rejected by the trustees, the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
105 may override the rejection by a two-thirds vote;] (8) develop criteria to  
106 ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs [and institutions] at the  
107 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
108 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B)  
109 institutions within the Connecticut State University System and the  
110 regional community-technical college system and enforce standards  
111 through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the  
112 Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8,  
113 consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets for [public  
114 higher education] the Connecticut State University System, the

115 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
116 College developed in accordance with the provisions of said section  
117 10a-8; (10) [review and make recommendations on plans received from  
118 the constituent unit boards of trustees for the continuing development  
119 and maximum utilization of the state's public higher education  
120 resources; (11) appoint advisory committees to assist in defining and  
121 suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of higher education;  
122 (12) establish an advisory council for higher education with  
123 representatives from public and private institutions to study methods  
124 and proposals for coordinating efforts of all such institutions in  
125 providing a stimulating and enriched educational environment for the  
126 citizens of the state, including measures to improve educational  
127 opportunities through alternative and nontraditional approaches such  
128 as external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate  
129 programs and services throughout public higher education and  
130 between public and independent institutions, including procedures to  
131 evaluate the impact on independent institutions of higher education of  
132 proposals affecting public institutions of higher education; (14)] make  
133 or enter into contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with  
134 its responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real  
135 estate by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section  
136 4b-23; [(15)] (11) be responsible for the care and maintenance of  
137 permanent records of institutions of higher education dissolved after  
138 September 1, 1969; [(16)] (12) prepare and present to the Governor and  
139 General Assembly legislative proposals affecting [public higher  
140 education, including proposals which utilize programs and facilities of  
141 independent institutions of higher education; (17)] the Connecticut  
142 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
143 system and Charter Oak State College; (13) develop and maintain a  
144 central higher education information system and establish definitions  
145 and data requirements for the [state system of higher education; (18)]  
146 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
147 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (14) report all  
148 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State  
149 University System, the regional community-technical college system

150 and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and  
151 [(19)] (15) undertake such studies and other activities as will best serve  
152 the higher educational interests of the [state] Connecticut State  
153 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
154 and Charter Oak State College.

155 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the  
156 state system of higher education shall be consistent with (1) the  
157 following goals: [(1)] (A) To ensure that no qualified person be denied  
158 the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender  
159 identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or  
160 economic condition, [(2)] and (B) to protect academic freedom, [(3) to  
161 provide opportunities for education and training related to the  
162 economic, cultural and educational development of the state, (4) to  
163 assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and  
164 private institutions of higher education, (5) to maintain standards of  
165 quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions  
166 of higher education, (6) to apply the resources of higher education to  
167 the problems of society, and (7) to foster flexibility in the policies and  
168 institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to  
169 changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests] and  
170 (2) the goals for higher education in the state identified in section 1 of  
171 this act. Said board shall review recent studies of the need for higher  
172 education services, with special attention to those completed pursuant  
173 to legislative action, and to meet such needs shall initiate additional  
174 programs or services through one or more of the constituent units.

175 (c) Repealed by P.A. 83-533, S. 53, 54.

176 (d) The board of regents shall request and receive, or be provided  
177 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the  
178 constituent units of the state system of higher education that is  
179 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this  
180 section.

181 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10a-104 of the general statutes is  
182 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

183 1, 2015):

184 (a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1)  
185 Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine  
186 the general policies of the university, including those concerning the  
187 admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges,  
188 divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the  
189 goals identified in section 1 of this act, and shall direct the expenditure  
190 of the university's funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the  
191 mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses  
192 thereof, [which] that shall be consistent with such goals and include,  
193 but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational  
194 needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses;  
195 (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of  
196 each institution and campus within the university system, which shall  
197 include each institution's and campus' particular strengths and  
198 specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the  
199 individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review  
200 and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic  
201 programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the  
202 Office of Higher Education, (6) make recommendations, when  
203 appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7)  
204 coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses  
205 under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements,  
206 consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and  
207 indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of  
208 Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the  
209 grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or  
210 omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9)  
211 promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the  
212 executive director of the Office of Higher Education and the joint  
213 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
214 matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially  
215 thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a  
216 building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for  
217 such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a

218 procedure approved by the Treasurer and (B) nothing in this  
219 subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as  
220 defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of  
221 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the  
222 United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid  
223 from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the  
224 powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish  
225 by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by  
226 a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the  
227 university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or  
228 payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

229 Sec. 5. Section 10a-6b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

231 [(a) The accountability measures developed by the Higher  
232 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to subsection (b) of section  
233 10a-6a shall be used by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and  
234 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education in  
235 assessing each public institution of higher education's progress toward  
236 meeting the following goals to: (1) Enhance student learning and  
237 promote academic excellence; (2) join with elementary and secondary  
238 schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels; (3) ensure access  
239 to and affordability of higher education; (4) promote the economic  
240 development of the state to help business and industry sustain strong  
241 economic growth; (5) respond to the needs and problems of society;  
242 and (6) ensure the efficient use of resources. The council shall develop  
243 an implementation plan for use of the accountability measures.]

244 [(b)] (a) In developing the accountability measures pursuant to  
245 subsection [(a) of this section] (b) of section 10a-6a, the [council]  
246 Higher Education Coordinating Council shall consider [: (1)  
247 Graduation rates, (2) student retention rates, (3) completions, (4)  
248 tuition and fees, (5) allocation of resources across expenditure  
249 functions, as defined by the National Association of College and  
250 University Business Officers, (6) revenues and expenditures broken out

251 by programs, (7) student financial need and available aid, (8) transfer  
252 patterns of students transferring in and out of the constituent units, (9)  
253 trends in enrollment and the percentage of incoming students who are  
254 state residents, (10) strategic plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data  
255 on graduates, including age, by academic and noncredit vocational  
256 course and program, (12) faculty productivity, (13) the] (1) the goals  
257 adopted by the Planning Commission for Higher Education and  
258 identified in section 1 of this act, and [(14)] (2) any other factor that it  
259 deems relevant. All measures shall be made available for inspection  
260 and separated out by constituent unit, institution of higher education,  
261 campus and program.

262 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education and each constituent  
263 unit of the state system of higher education shall use such  
264 accountability measures in assessing the progress of each public  
265 institution of higher education toward meeting such goals.

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

274 (d) The council shall submit the accountability measures to the  
275 Board of Regents for Higher Education for the board's review and  
276 approval. Once the measures are approved, each constituent unit shall  
277 provide the data to the board that is necessary for purposes of  
278 applying the measures.

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

284 the state system of higher education to the joint standing committee of  
285 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
286 education annually, by December first. The report shall contain  
287 accountability measures for each constituent unit and public  
288 institution of higher education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of  
289 this section. The report shall include updated baseline and peer  
290 comparison data, performance improvement targets for each measure,  
291 and other information as determined by the president.

292 Sec. 6. Section 10a-11b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
293 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

294 (a) There is established a Planning Commission for Higher  
295 Education to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic  
296 master plan for higher education in Connecticut.

297 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:  
298 (A) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of  
299 Representatives, who shall have experience as former administrators  
300 or faculty members in independent institutions of higher education in  
301 this state; (B) two members appointed by the president pro tempore of  
302 the Senate, one of whom shall be a former administrator or faculty  
303 member of a regional community-technical college and one of whom  
304 shall be a former administrator or faculty member of The University of  
305 Connecticut; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the  
306 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a former  
307 administrator or faculty member of a state university in the  
308 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a  
309 former administrator or faculty member of Charter Oak State College;  
310 (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one  
311 of whom shall have experience in the field of arts and culture and one  
312 of whom shall have experience in the field of health care; (E) two  
313 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
314 Representatives who shall have knowledge and expertise in science  
315 and technology; (F) two members appointed by the minority leader of  
316 the Senate who shall represent state-wide business organizations; and

317 (G) five members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall  
318 represent a nonprofit education foundation, one of whom shall have  
319 experience in university research and its commercial application and  
320 one of whom shall have experience in the field of education from  
321 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive. The commission  
322 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic  
323 diversity.

324 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting  
325 members on the commission: (A) The president of the Board of  
326 Regents for Higher Education, the Commissioner of Education, the  
327 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the  
328 Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) the chairpersons of the  
329 boards of trustees and the chief executive officers of each constituent  
330 unit of the state system of higher education, or their designees; (C) the  
331 chairperson of the board and president of the Connecticut Conference  
332 of Independent Colleges, or their designees; (D) the chairpersons and  
333 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General  
334 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education  
335 and employment advancement; and (E) the Secretary of the Office of  
336 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

337 (3) The commission shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. Any  
338 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each  
339 appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the  
340 date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without  
341 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the  
342 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and  
343 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it  
344 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The  
345 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to  
346 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds  
347 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

348 (b) In accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section  
349 10a-6, as amended by this act, the commission shall develop and

350 [ensure the implementation of] implement a strategic master plan that:

351 (1) Examines the impact of demographic, workforce and education  
352 trends on higher education in the state;

353 (2) (A) Establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2020 to increase the  
354 number of people earning a bachelor's degree, associate degree or  
355 certificate, increases the number of people successfully completing  
356 coursework at the community college level and the number of people  
357 entering the state's workforce and eliminates the postsecondary  
358 achievement gap between minority students and the general student  
359 population, and (B) includes specific strategies for meeting such goals,  
360 as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant to subdivision (2)  
361 of subsection (a) of section 10a-6, as amended by this act;

362 (3) Examines and recommends changes to funding policies,  
363 practices and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices  
364 with the goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6, as amended  
365 by this act, including an evaluation of the use of strategic and  
366 performance-based incentive funding; (B) determine how the  
367 constituent units shall annually report to the General Assembly and  
368 the public in a transparent and thorough manner regarding each  
369 constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and state support, including  
370 the state appropriation, personnel expenses, personnel fringe benefits,  
371 capital improvement bonds and financial aid to students; and (C)  
372 improve coordination of appropriation, tuition and financial aid and  
373 seek ways to maximize funding through federal and private grants;  
374 and

375 (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent unit of the state  
376 system of higher education and independent institution of higher  
377 education in the state can, in a manner consistent with such  
378 institution's mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the  
379 state's economic growth.

380 (c) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall  
381 review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6, as amended by this act,

382 and 10a-11. In addition, the commission may consider the following:  
383 (1) Establishing incentives for institutional performance and  
384 productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive programs, especially  
385 in workforce shortage areas and for minority students; (3)  
386 implementing mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools  
387 and aligning such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher  
388 education; (4) seeking partnerships with the business community and  
389 public institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce  
390 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work  
391 directly with higher education institutions to move students into  
392 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative  
393 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher  
394 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high  
395 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for  
396 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical  
397 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure  
398 retention and graduation rates of students, including graduation rates  
399 for students who have transferred among two or more constituent  
400 units or public institutions of higher education; (8) addressing the  
401 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,  
402 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,  
403 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase  
404 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)  
405 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher  
406 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

407 (d) Not later than June 1, 2014, the commission shall submit a  
408 preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan  
409 and, not later than September 1, 2014, the commission shall submit the  
410 strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for the  
411 years ending 2020 and 2025, together with any recommendations for  
412 appropriate legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint  
413 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
414 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,  
415 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the  
416 provisions of section 11-4a.

417 (e) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the  
 418 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint  
 419 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
 420 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,  
 421 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with  
 422 section 11-4a, on the implementation of the plan and progress made  
 423 toward achieving the goals specified in the plan. The commission may  
 424 periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary.

425 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, for purposes of implementing the  
 426 strategic master plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the  
 427 commission, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and  
 428 Management, shall establish working groups and consult with any  
 429 existing working groups, commissions or task forces that may  
 430 investigate and offer guidance on specific objectives identified by the  
 431 commission or the office, including, but not limited to, outcomes-based  
 432 financing and workforce development, the examination of which by  
 433 the commission are essential to achieving the goals specified in the  
 434 plan.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2015	10a-1b(a)
Sec. 3	July 1, 2015	10a-6
Sec. 4	July 1, 2015	10a-104(a)
Sec. 5	July 1, 2015	10a-6b
Sec. 6	July 1, 2015	10a-11b

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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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 constituent units of higher education have the expertise to carry out the requirements of the bill.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 7007*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the state, the Board of Regents of Higher Education (BOR), and the UConn Board of Trustees (BOT) to align their higher education policies with the goals of the Planning Commission for Higher Education's ("Planning Commission", see BACKGROUND) strategic master plan for higher education. These goals aim to:

1. increase the education levels of the state's adult population,
2. develop a globally competitive workforce and economy in the state, and
3. ensure higher education affordability.

It also requires the Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) (see BACKGROUND) to use these goals when developing accountability measures for public higher education institutions. HECC must use these measures to assess the progress of each institution in meeting strategic master plan goals.

Under the bill, the Planning Commission must implement the strategic master plan itself, rather than simply ensure its implementation as under current law. The bill also requires the Planning Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to establish working groups and consult with existing working groups, commissions, or task forces to investigate and offer specific objectives identified by the Planning Commission or OPM. Such objectives include outcomes-based funding (see

BACKGROUND) and workforce development.

The bill also makes numerous technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

### **POLICY ALIGNMENT**

The bill requires the state, BOR, and BOT to align their policies with the three recommended goals of the Planning Commission's strategic master plan.

The first goal aims to increase the state's adult population education levels by January 1, 2025, with a target of at least (1) 40% of adults having earned a bachelor degree and (2) 30% of adults having earned an associate degree or sub-baccalaureate certificate. Under the bill, a "sub-baccalaureate certificate" is a postsecondary award that a student earns after completing a formal postsecondary program below the baccalaureate level on a for-credit basis. The purpose of this goal is to ensure that the state's workforce has the skills to achieve and sustain a competitive economy through (1) reducing socioeconomic disparities and the achievement gap between whites and minorities, (2) improving the lives of residents in the state's most urbanized areas, and (3) ensuring the quality of postsecondary education is improved.

The second goal seeks to develop a globally competitive workforce and economy in Connecticut by cultivating an environment that attracts and retains a highly educated, diverse population. The bill lists various means to accomplish this goal, including:

1. aligning postsecondary degree attainment with Connecticut employers' workforce needs;
2. contributing to the expansion and diversification of the state's economy through research and innovation;
3. establishing partnerships among higher education institutions and business, civic, and cultural leaders in the state; and

4. increasing the number of students engaged in community service, internships, and other workplace-based learning experiences.

The third goal aims to ensure that higher education is affordable for Connecticut residents by:

1. narrowing the gap between the cost of attendance at a higher education institution and family income;
2. reducing the average student loan to the national average by January 1, 2025; and
3. increasing by 5%, by January 1, 2025, the number of recent Connecticut high school graduates who enroll in Connecticut higher education institutions.

### **BOR**

The bill requires the BOR president to implement Planning Commission strategic master plan goals. It also narrows the scope of many BOR duties prescribed by law from a statewide to a BOR institution-specific scope. Current law requires BOR to establish or prepare statewide higher education (1) general policies and guidelines, (2) master plans, (3) tuition and fee policies, (4) budgets, (5) legislative proposals, (6) central information system design and data requirements, (7) program reports to the Office of Higher Education, and (8) studies or activities to benefit public higher educational interests. The bill limits these duties to tasks affecting only BOR institutions (i.e., the Connecticut State Universities, regional community-technical colleges, and Charter Oak State College).

The bill also eliminates BOR's obligations to:

1. notify an institution's board of trustees about proposed termination of an academic program, along with the board's right to reject termination and BOR's right to override rejection by a two-thirds vote;

2. review and make recommendations on plans received from BOR institution boards of trustees for development and use of state public higher education resources;
3. appoint advisory committees to help define and suggest solutions for higher education's problems and needs;
4. establish a higher education advisory council to study methods to coordinate institutional efforts; and
5. coordinate programs and services throughout public higher education and between public and independent institutions.

Current law also requires state system of higher education policies to be consistent with several goals. In addition to adding Planning Commission strategic master plan goals to this list, the bill removes the following goals:

1. providing opportunities for education and training related to the state's economic, cultural, and educational development;
2. assuring the fullest possible use of available resources in public and private institutions of higher education;
3. maintaining standards of quality to ensure a position of national leadership for state institutions of higher education;
4. applying the resources of higher education to society's problems; and
5. fostering flexibility in policies and institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology, and student interests.

### ***UConn Board of Trustees***

Under the bill, general UConn university policies and the university mission statement must be consistent with Planning Commission strategic master plan goals.

**ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

The bill preserves the requirement that BOR use HECC accountability measures, but it instructs BOR to use them to assess its institutions' progress toward meeting Planning Commission strategic master plan goals, rather than the following goals:

1. enhancing student learning and promoting academic excellence,
2. joining with elementary and secondary schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels,
3. ensuring access to and affordability of higher education,
4. promoting Connecticut's economic development to help business and industry sustain strong economic growth,
5. responding to the needs and problems of society, and
6. ensuring the efficient use of resources.

The bill eliminates HECC's duty to develop an implementation plan for using its accountability measures.

The bill also requires HECC to consider Planning Commission strategic master plan goals and any other factors it deems relevant when developing accountability measures. It removes other factors required for consideration under current law:

1. graduation and student retention rates,
2. completions,
3. tuition and fees,
4. allocation of resources across expenditure functions,
5. program revenues and expenditures,
6. student financial need and available aid,

7. student transfer patterns,
8. enrollment trends,
9. strategic plans to ensure racial and ethnic diversity,
10. data on graduates, and
11. faculty productivity.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Planning Commission for Higher Education***

The commission develops and ensures the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education. The plan must address degree attainment, the number of people entering the workforce, and the achievement gap. The plan must provide specific strategies for meeting these goals and consider the impact of education trends on higher education in Connecticut (CGS § 10a-11b).

### ***Higher Education Coordinating Council***

This council meets annually and consists of the two BOR vice-presidents, the OPM Secretary, the education commissioner, the UConn president, the UConn chief academic officer, the BOT chairperson, the BOR chairperson, and the BOR president.

By law, the council must (1) identify, examine, and implement savings in administrative functions carried out by the higher education system, including, but not limited to, methods to simplify and reduce duplication in the administrative functions of each constituent unit, and (2) develop accountability measures for each constituent unit and each public higher education institution (CGS § 10a-6a).

### ***Outcomes-Based Funding***

Outcomes-based funding (i.e., performance-based funding) is a state higher education funding model that aligns with state goals and priorities. It allocates state funds to institutions based on performance indicators such as course completion, time to degree, transfer rates, the

number of degrees awarded, and the number of low-income and minority graduates.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)