



House of Representatives

File No. 798

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 537)

Substitute House Bill No. 7007
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 8, 2015

***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] Connecticut State University System, the regional
121 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College to
122 implement the goals identified in section 1 of this act; (11) appoint
123 advisory committees [to assist in defining and suggesting solutions for
124 the problems and needs of higher education; (12) establish an advisory
125 council for higher education] with representatives from public and
126 [private] independent institutions of higher education to study
127 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of [all such institutions
128 in providing a stimulating and enriched educational environment for
129 the citizens of the state, including measures to improve educational
130 opportunities] the public institutions of higher education under its
131 jurisdiction with The University of Connecticut and the independent
132 institutions of higher education to implement the goals identified in
133 section 1 of this act; (12) evaluate (A) means of implementing the goals
134 identified in section 1 of this act, and (B) any recommendations made
135 by the Planning Commission for Higher Education in implementing
136 the strategic master plan pursuant to section 10a-11b, as amended by
137 this act, through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as
138 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs
139 and services [throughout public higher education and between public
140 and independent institutions, including procedures to evaluate the
141 impact on independent institutions of higher education of proposals
142 affecting public institutions of higher education; (14)] among the
143 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
144 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (14) assess
145 opportunities for collaboration with The University of Connecticut and
146 the independent institutions of higher education to implement the
147 goals identified in section 1 of this act; (15) make or enter into
148 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
149 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate
150 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;

151 [(15)] (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent
152 records of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1,
153 1969; [(16)] (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General
154 Assembly legislative proposals affecting [public higher education,
155 including proposals which utilize programs and facilities of
156 independent institutions of higher education; (17)] the Connecticut
157 State University System, the regional community-technical college
158 system and Charter Oak State College; (18) develop and maintain a
159 central higher education information system and establish definitions
160 and data requirements for the [state system of higher education; (18)]
161 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
162 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all
163 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State
164 University System, the regional community-technical college system
165 and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and
166 [(19)] (20) undertake such studies and other activities as will best serve
167 the higher educational interests of the [state] Connecticut State
168 University System, the regional community-technical college system
169 and Charter Oak State College.

170 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the
171 state system of higher education shall be consistent with (1) the
172 following goals: [(1)] (A) To ensure that no qualified person be denied
173 the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender
174 identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or
175 economic condition, [(2)] (B) to protect academic freedom, [(3)] (C) to
176 provide opportunities for education and training related to the
177 economic, cultural and educational development of the state, [(4)] (D)
178 to assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and
179 private institutions of higher education, [(5)] (E) to maintain standards
180 of quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state
181 institutions of higher education, [(6)] (F) to apply the resources of
182 higher education to the problems of society, and [(7)] (G) to foster
183 flexibility in the policies and institutions of higher education to enable
184 the system to respond to changes in the economy, society, technology

185 and student interests; and (2) the goals for higher education in the state
186 identified in section 1 of this act. Said board shall review recent studies
187 of the need for higher education services, with special attention to
188 those completed pursuant to legislative action, and to meet such needs
189 shall initiate additional programs or services through one or more of
190 the constituent units.

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

192 (d) The board of regents shall request and receive, or be provided
193 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the
194 [constituent units of the state system of higher education that is] public
195 institutions of higher education under its jurisdiction that are
196 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this
197 section.

198 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10a-104 of the general statutes is
199 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
200 *1, 2015*):

201 (a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1)
202 Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine
203 the general policies of the university, including those concerning the
204 admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges,
205 divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the
206 goals identified in section 1 of this act, and shall direct the expenditure
207 of the university's funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the
208 mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses
209 thereof, [which] that shall be consistent with such goals and include,
210 but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational
211 needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses;
212 (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of
213 each institution and campus within the university system, which shall
214 include each institution's and campus' particular strengths and
215 specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the
216 individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review

217 and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic
218 programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the
219 Office of Higher Education, (6) make recommendations, when
220 appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7)
221 coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses
222 under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements,
223 consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and
224 indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of
225 Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the
226 grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or
227 omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9)
228 promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the
229 executive director of the Office of Higher Education and the joint
230 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
231 matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially
232 thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a
233 building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for
234 such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a
235 procedure approved by the Treasurer and (B) nothing in this
236 subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as
237 defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of
238 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the
239 United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid
240 from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the
241 powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish
242 by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by
243 a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the
244 university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or
245 payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

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

248 [(a) The accountability measures developed by the Higher
249 Education Coordinating Council pursuant to subsection (b) of section
250 10a-6a shall be used by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and

251 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education in
252 assessing each public institution of higher education's progress toward
253 meeting the following goals to: (1) Enhance student learning and
254 promote academic excellence; (2) join with elementary and secondary
255 schools to improve teaching and learning at all levels; (3) ensure access
256 to and affordability of higher education; (4) promote the economic
257 development of the state to help business and industry sustain strong
258 economic growth; (5) respond to the needs and problems of society;
259 and (6) ensure the efficient use of resources. The council shall develop
260 an implementation plan for use of the accountability measures.]

261 [(b)] (a) In developing the accountability measures pursuant to
262 subsection [(a) of this section] (b) of section 10a-6a, the [council]
263 Higher Education Coordinating Council shall consider [: (1)
264 Graduation rates, (2) student retention rates, (3) completions, (4)
265 tuition and fees, (5) allocation of resources across expenditure
266 functions, as defined by the National Association of College and
267 University Business Officers, (6) revenues and expenditures broken out
268 by programs, (7) student financial need and available aid, (8) transfer
269 patterns of students transferring in and out of the constituent units, (9)
270 trends in enrollment and the percentage of incoming students who are
271 state residents, (10) strategic plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data
272 on graduates, including age, by academic and noncredit vocational
273 course and program, (12) faculty productivity, (13)] (1) the goals
274 adopted by the Planning Commission for Higher Education and
275 identified in section 1 of this act, and [(14)] (2) any other factor that it
276 deems relevant. All measures shall be made available for inspection
277 and separated out by constituent unit, institution of higher education,
278 campus and program.

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

283 (c) The council shall work with the Labor Department to (1) produce

284 periodic reports, capable of being sorted by student age, on the
285 employment status, job retention and earnings of students enrolled in
286 academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior
287 to enrollment and after completion of such courses and programs, who
288 leave the constituent units upon graduation or otherwise, and (2)
289 develop an annual affordability index for public higher education that
290 is based on state-wide median family income.

291 (d) The council shall submit the accountability measures to the
292 Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of
293 The University of Connecticut for [the board's] review and approval.
294 Once the measures are approved, each constituent unit, [shall provide]
295 under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents for Higher Education,
296 shall provide to said board and The University of Connecticut shall
297 provide to the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut the
298 data [to the board] that is necessary for purposes of applying the
299 measures.

300 (e) Each public institution of higher education, [of the state system
301 of higher education] under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents for
302 Higher Education, shall submit an accountability report to the
303 president of [the Board of Regents for Higher Education] said board
304 annually, by [November] December first. The president shall compile
305 the reports and shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a, a
306 consolidated accountability report for the state system of higher
307 education to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
308 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education annually, by
309 [December] February first. The report shall contain accountability
310 measures for each constituent unit and public institution of higher
311 education pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section. The report
312 shall include updated baseline and peer comparison data, performance
313 improvement targets for each measure, and other information as
314 determined by the president.

315 (f) The University of Connecticut shall submit, in accordance with
316 the provisions of section 11-4a, an accountability report to the joint

317 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
318 matters relating to higher education annually, by February first. The
319 report shall contain accountability measures for the university
320 pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section. The report shall
321 include updated baseline and peer comparison data, performance
322 improvement targets for each measure, and other information as
323 determined by the president of The University of Connecticut.

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

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

329 (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:
330 (A) Two members appointed by the speaker of the House of
331 Representatives, who shall have experience as former administrators
332 or faculty members in independent institutions of higher education in
333 this state; (B) two members appointed by the president pro tempore of
334 the Senate, one of whom shall be a former administrator or faculty
335 member of a regional community-technical college and one of whom
336 shall be a former administrator or faculty member of The University of
337 Connecticut; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the
338 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a former
339 administrator or faculty member of a state university in the
340 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a
341 former administrator or faculty member of Charter Oak State College;
342 (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one
343 of whom shall have experience in the field of arts and culture and one
344 of whom shall have experience in the field of health care; (E) two
345 members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
346 Representatives who shall have knowledge and expertise in science
347 and technology; (F) two members appointed by the minority leader of
348 the Senate who shall represent state-wide business organizations; and
349 (G) five members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall

350 represent a nonprofit education foundation, one of whom shall have
351 experience in university research and its commercial application and
352 one of whom shall have experience in the field of education from
353 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive. The commission
354 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic
355 diversity.

356 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting
357 members on the commission: (A) The president of the Board of
358 Regents for Higher Education, the Commissioner of Education, the
359 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
360 Labor Commissioner, or their designees; (B) the chairpersons of the
361 boards of trustees and the chief executive officers of each constituent
362 unit of the state system of higher education, or their designees; (C) the
363 chairperson of the board and president of the Connecticut Conference
364 of Independent Colleges, or their designees; (D) the chairpersons and
365 ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General
366 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
367 and employment advancement; and (E) the Secretary of the Office of
368 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee.

369 (3) The commission shall elect a chairperson at its first meeting. Any
370 vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of each
371 appointed member of the commission shall be three years from the
372 date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without
373 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the
374 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and
375 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it
376 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The
377 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to
378 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds
379 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

380 (b) In accordance with subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section
381 10a-6, as amended by this act, the commission shall develop and
382 ensure the implementation of a strategic master plan that:

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

385 (2) (A) Establishes numerical goals for 2015 and 2020 to increase the
386 number of people earning a bachelor's degree, associate degree or
387 certificate, increases the number of people successfully completing
388 coursework at the community college level and the number of people
389 entering the state's workforce and eliminates the postsecondary
390 achievement gap between minority students and the general student
391 population, and (B) includes specific strategies for meeting such goals,
392 as well as strategies for meeting the goals pursuant to subdivision (2)
393 of subsection (a) of section 10a-6, as amended by this act;

394 (3) Examines and recommends changes to funding policies,
395 practices and accountability in order to (A) align policies and practices
396 with the goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-6, as amended
397 by this act, including an evaluation of the use of strategic and
398 performance-based incentive funding; (B) determine how the
399 constituent units shall annually report to the General Assembly and
400 the public in a transparent and thorough manner regarding each
401 constituent unit's expenditures, staffing and state support, including
402 the state appropriation, personnel expenses, personnel fringe benefits,
403 capital improvement bonds and financial aid to students; and (C)
404 improve coordination of appropriation, tuition and financial aid and
405 seek ways to maximize funding through federal and private grants;
406 and

407 (4) Recommends ways in which each constituent unit of the state
408 system of higher education and independent institution of higher
409 education in the state can, in a manner consistent with such
410 institution's mission, expand such institution's role in advancing the
411 state's economic growth.

412 (c) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall
413 review the plans pursuant to sections 10a-6, as amended by this act,
414 and 10a-11. In addition, the commission may consider the following:

415 (1) Establishing incentives for institutional performance and
416 productivity; (2) increasing financial aid incentive programs, especially
417 in workforce shortage areas and for minority students; (3)
418 implementing mandatory college preparatory curricula in high schools
419 and aligning such curricula with curricula in institutions of higher
420 education; (4) seeking partnerships with the business community and
421 public institutions of higher education to serve the needs of workforce
422 retraining that may include bridge programs in which businesses work
423 directly with higher education institutions to move students into
424 identified workforce shortage areas; (5) establishing collaborative
425 partnerships between public high schools and institutions of higher
426 education; (6) implementing programs in high school to assist high
427 school students seeking a college track or alternative pathways for
428 post-secondary education, such as vocational and technical
429 opportunities; (7) developing policies to promote and measure
430 retention and graduation rates of students, including graduation rates
431 for students who have transferred among two or more constituent
432 units or public institutions of higher education; (8) addressing the
433 educational needs of minority students and nontraditional students,
434 including, but not limited to, part-time students, incumbent workers,
435 adult learners, former inmates and immigrants, in order to increase
436 enrollment and retention in institutions of higher education; and (9)
437 addressing the affordability of tuition at institutions of higher
438 education and the issue of increased student indebtedness.

439 (d) Not later than June 1, 2014, the commission shall submit a
440 preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan
441 and, not later than September 1, 2014, the commission shall submit the
442 strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for the
443 years ending 2020 and 2025, together with any recommendations for
444 appropriate legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint
445 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
446 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
447 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with the
448 provisions of section 11-4a.

449 (e) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the
 450 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint
 451 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 452 matters relating to higher education and employment advancement,
 453 education, commerce, labor and appropriations, in accordance with
 454 section 11-4a, on the implementation of the plan and progress made
 455 toward achieving the goals specified in the plan. The commission may
 456 periodically suggest changes to the goals as necessary.

457 (f) Not later than January 1, 2016, for purposes of implementing the
 458 strategic master plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the
 459 commission, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and
 460 Management, shall establish working groups and consult with any
 461 existing working groups, commissions or task forces that may
 462 investigate and offer guidance on specific objectives identified by the
 463 commission or the office, including, but not limited to, outcomes-based
 464 financing and workforce development, the examination of which by
 465 the commission are essential to achieving the goals specified in the
 466 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

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.

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.

House "A" results in no fiscal impact as it is technical and clarifying in nature.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7007 (as amended by House "A")******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 state's adult population education levels,
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 institutions of higher education. HECC must use the measures to assess the progress of each institution toward meeting strategic master plan goals.

The bill also requires the Planning Commission, in collaboration with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to establish working groups and consult with any 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.

*House Amendment "A" makes several changes relating to institutions under the jurisdiction of BOR and UConn. Specifically, it (1) requires HECC to submit the accountability measures to the UConn BOT, in addition to BOR as required under current law; (2) requires BOR and UConn to submit separate reports to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee about HECC accountability measures and extends these reporting deadlines; (3) requires UConn to provide to its BOT any data necessary for applying the accountability measures; and (4) clarifies that BOR must be provided data, reports, and other information from institutions under its jurisdiction but not from UConn.

The amendment also (1) eliminates several BOR obligations in current law and replaces them with ones related to implementation of Planning Commission strategic master plan goals, (2) restores several Planning Commission strategic master plan goals which existing law requires state higher education policies to align with, and (3) restores the Planning Commission's responsibility to ensure the implementation of a strategic master plan, as under existing law, rather than requiring it to conduct the implementation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

POLICY ALIGNMENT

The bill requires the state, BOR, and UConn's 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's 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 improvement in the quality of postsecondary education.

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 institutions of higher education 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 an institution of higher education 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

institutions of higher education.

BOR

The bill requires the BOR president to implement Planning Commission strategic master plan goals. It also narrows many BOR duties prescribed by law from a statewide to a BOR institution-specific scale. 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). It also clarifies that BOR must be provided data, reports, and other information from the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) institutions and the regional community technical colleges (CTC) but not from UConn.

The bill also eliminates (1) BOR’s obligations to notify an institution’s board of trustees about proposed termination of an academic program, (2) the board’s right to reject termination, and (3) BOR’s right to override rejection by a two-thirds vote.

Additionally, the bill eliminates several BOR obligations in current law and replaces them with ones related to implementation of Planning Commission strategic master plan goals. Table 1 describes the eliminated provisions in current law and the corresponding new ones.

Table 1: Revised BOR Obligations

<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Bill</i>
Review and make recommendations on plans received from BOR institution boards of trustees for development and utilization of state public higher education resources	Review and make recommendations on plans received from BOR institutions to implement Planning Commission strategic master plan goals

<p>Appoint advisory committees to help define and suggest solutions for higher education’s problems and needs Establish a higher education advisory council of public and private institutions to study methods to coordinate institutional efforts, including ways to improve educational opportunities through alternative and nontraditional approaches</p>	<p>Appoint advisory committees to study methods and proposals to coordinate efforts of BOR’s public higher education institutions, along with UConn and private colleges and universities, to implement Planning Commission strategic master plan goals through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as external degrees and credit by examination</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Evaluate (1) the means of implementing Planning Commission goals and (2) recommendations made by the commission in implementing the strategic master plan</p>
<p>Coordinate programs and services throughout public higher education and between public and independent institutions</p>	<p>Coordinate programs and services among BOR institutions</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Assess opportunities for collaboration with UConn and private colleges and universities to implement Planning Commission strategic master plan goals</p>

UConn BOT

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 factor it deems relevant when developing accountability measures. It removes the following 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. revenues and expenditures broken out by programs,
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.

The bill requires HECC to submit the accountability measures to the UConn BOT for approval, in addition to BOR as required under current law. Once the measures are approved by both BOT and BOR,

the bill also requires UConn to provide to its BOT any data necessary for applying the accountability measures. As under current law, BOR institutions must provide such data to BOR.

Additionally, the bill requires UConn to submit an accountability report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee annually by February 1. This report must contain:

1. HECC accountability measures for the university,
2. updated baseline and peer comparison data,
3. performance targets for each measure, and
4. other information as determined by UConn's president.

The bill clarifies that only institutions under BOR's jurisdiction must submit individual accountability reports to the BOR president. It requires these submissions by December 1, rather than November 1 as under current law. It also requires the BOR president to compile these reports and submit a consolidated accountability report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee annually by the following February 1, rather than December 1 as current law requires. By law, the consolidated report must contain the same information as UConn's report described above.

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 UConn Board of Trustees 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 institution of higher education (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)