



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 554

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 898

Senate, April 8, 2015

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. BARTOLOMEO of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-149 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) In addition to other powers granted in the general statutes,
4 authority and responsibility for the operation of the state's public
5 institutions of higher education shall be vested in (1) the Board of
6 Trustees of The University of Connecticut which shall have exclusive
7 responsibility for programs leading to research doctoral, doctor of
8 medicine, doctor of dental medicine and juris doctor degrees, [and
9 postbaccalaureate professional degrees, with the exception of
10 education doctoral degree programs,] (2) the Board of Trustees of the
11 Connecticut State University System which shall have special
12 responsibility for the preparation of personnel for the public schools of
13 the state including master's degree programs, education doctoral

14 degree programs, including an education doctoral degree program in
15 nursing education, and other graduate study in education, and
16 authority for providing (A) liberal arts and career programs at the
17 bachelors, masters and sixth year level, and (B) professional doctoral
18 degree programs, except programs leading to research doctoral, doctor
19 of medicine, doctor of dental medicine and juris doctor degrees, (3) the
20 Board of Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges which shall
21 have responsibility for providing programs, as enumerated in section
22 10a-80, leading, where appropriate, to an associate degree or
23 occupational certificate and programs leading to the degree of
24 associate in applied science and such other appropriate degrees or
25 certificates as are approved by the Board of Regents for Higher
26 Education and for such terminal vocational retraining and continuing
27 education programs leading to occupational certificates as are
28 appropriate, and (4) the Board of Regents for Higher Education which
29 shall have responsibility for the award of external degrees and credits
30 earned at Charter Oak State College by examination and by other
31 forms of validation and by evaluation of learning, including transfer of
32 credit, [;] provided the authority of the Boards of Trustees of The
33 University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State University System
34 and the Community-Technical Colleges to award degrees of the
35 respective institutions shall not be affected.

36 (b) In approving programs provided under subparagraph (B) of
37 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the Board of Trustees
38 for the Connecticut State University System shall consider (1) the effect
39 a proposed professional doctoral degree program would have on the
40 budget of the state university seeking to offer such program, (2)
41 whether expertise in the subject matter of such program currently
42 exists at the state university, (3) the current and projected accreditation
43 standards governing such program, and (4) the current and projected
44 professional standards in the occupational field for which students
45 would qualify for employment upon graduation from such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-149

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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

There is no fiscal impact to reassigning the authority and responsibility for operating certain doctoral programs among the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) and the UConn Board of Trustees as it is procedural in nature.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 898*****AN ACT CONCERNING PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill reassigns the authority and responsibility for operating certain doctoral programs between the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) and the UConn Board of Trustees. (Since 2012, the Board of Regents for Higher Education has served as the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System.) It grants (1) special responsibility to the CSUS Board of Trustees to operate professional doctoral degree programs and (2) exclusive responsibility to the UConn Board of Trustees to operate programs leading to research doctoral, doctor of medicine, doctor of dental medicine, and juris doctor degrees.

The bill removes from the UConn Board of Trustees the exclusive responsibility to operate post-baccalaureate professional degree programs.

It also requires the CSUS Board of Trustees to consider the following elements when approving professional doctoral degree programs:

1. the effect such a proposed program would have on the budget of the state university seeking the program,
2. whether expertise in the subject matter of such program currently exists at the state university,
3. current and projected accreditation standards governing the

program, and

4. current and projected professional standards in the occupational field for which students would qualify for employment on graduation from the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND

Professional Doctoral Degrees

Professional doctoral degrees emphasize skills, practical knowledge, and application of research to practical clinical experience.

Research Doctoral Degrees

Research doctoral degrees, or PhDs, focus on developing new knowledge in a field of study and are primarily the purview of research universities.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)