



Senate

File No. 895

General Assembly

January Session, 2015

(Reprint of File No. 440)

Senate Bill No. 929
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 26, 2015

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND
CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS CHECKS OF FACULTY MEMBERS
OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.***

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

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 Section 10a-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) There shall be a student advisory committee to the Board of
4 Regents for Higher Education to assist the board in performing its
5 statutory functions. The committee shall consist of the following
6 student members: One member from each of the institutions within the
7 jurisdiction of the Connecticut State University System, one member
8 from each of the regional community-technical colleges and one
9 member from Charter Oak State College. [Such members] For the term
10 commencing on July 1, 2015, the members from six of the regional
11 community-technical colleges and two of the institutions within the
12 jurisdiction of the Connecticut State University System, as selected by
13 the student members whose terms expire on or before June 30, 2015,

14 shall serve a term of one year. For the term commencing on July 1,
15 2016, and every term thereafter, the members from such selected
16 colleges and institutions shall serve a term of two years. All remaining
17 members shall serve a term of two years. If any member ceases to be a
18 matriculating student in good standing, either as a full-time or part-
19 time undergraduate or graduate student at the institution within the
20 constituent unit system that elected such student, the membership of
21 such student shall terminate. If the membership of any such student
22 member terminates, the student government organization of the
23 institution of higher education that elected such member shall, not
24 later than thirty days after the membership terminates and in such a
25 manner as the council determines, elect a student member who shall
26 serve for the remainder of the term.

27 (b) The members of the committee and alternates for such members
28 shall be elected by the student government organization of the
29 institution of higher education they are to represent. The alternate
30 members of the committee may serve in the absence of the regularly
31 elected member.

32 (c) The committee shall, on a rotating basis among its members and
33 by a consensus vote of all its members, elect its own chairperson and
34 vice-chairperson, one of whom shall be a member from the
35 Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College and
36 the other of whom shall be a member from the regional community-
37 technical colleges, and such other officers as it deems necessary, to
38 serve for a term of [two years] one year. The committee shall be
39 deemed to be a public agency within the scope of the Freedom of
40 Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and shall keep such
41 records as may be appropriate.

42 (d) The committee, established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
43 section, shall meet at least biannually with the Board of Regents for
44 Higher Education. Agendas shall be prepared for such meetings and
45 shall be distributed by the board prior thereto and shall consist of
46 matters recommended for inclusion by the chairperson of the Board of

47 Regents for Higher Education and the committee. Such meetings shall
 48 be chaired by the chairperson of the Board of Regents for Higher
 49 Education and the committee members shall have the right to
 50 participate in all discussions and deliberations, but shall not have the
 51 right to vote at such meetings.

52 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) An institution of higher
 53 education in the state, and the constituent unit, as defined in section
 54 10a-1 of the general statutes, that has jurisdiction over such institution
 55 may require a faculty member who is actively under consideration for
 56 promotion to submit to a state and national criminal history records
 57 check conducted in accordance with section 29-17a of the general
 58 statutes. In making a decision with regard to promotion of such faculty
 59 member, the institution or constituent unit shall consider the results of
 60 such records check in accordance with any applicable provisions of the
 61 employment contract between such faculty member and such
 62 institution and of the collective bargaining agreement applicable to
 63 such faculty member.

64 (b) Any institution of higher education or constituent unit that
 65 requires a faculty member to submit to a criminal history records
 66 check pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall notify its
 67 governing board of the results of such records check prior to making a
 68 decision on the promotion.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-3
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section

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

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

The bill results in no fiscal impact to the state as it is procedural in nature.

House "A" (LCO 7896) is procedural in nature and results in no fiscal impact.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 929 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill staggers the terms of student advisory committee members for the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Under current law, this committee must consist of one student from each institution in the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) (four total), one from each regional community-technical college (CTC) (12 total), and one member from Charter Oak State College, each serving a two-year term.

The bill requires six of the CTC and two of the CSUS members to serve only one year for the term beginning July 1, 2015. For the term beginning July 1, 2016 and every term thereafter, these eight members must serve two-year terms. The remaining nine student members continue to serve standard two-year terms.

Also, the bill makes two changes to the committee's leadership. Current law requires committee members to elect their own chairperson and vice-chairperson to serve two-year terms; one must be a member from CSUS, and the other must be a member from a CTC. The bill (1) requires that one leader be from either CSUS or Charter Oak State College and (2) shortens the leadership terms from two years to one year.

Additionally, the bill allows Connecticut higher education institutions (including UConn and all its campuses, all state universities in the CSUS, all CTCs, and Charter Oak State College) to require a faculty member who is actively under consideration for a

promotion to submit to a state and national criminal history records check. The institution must consider the results of the check when deciding upon the promotion, within the parameters of (1) the faculty member's employment contract with the institution and (2) the applicable collective bargaining agreement. Also, it must notify its governing board about the records check results before making the promotion decision.

*House Amendment "A" adds provisions that allow higher education institutions to conduct criminal background checks for employees who are eligible for promotions and consider the results when making the promotion decision.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015, except for the provisions on faculty member criminal background checks, which are effective October 1, 2015.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/19/2015)