



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 565

January Session, 2015

Substitute Senate Bill No. 973

Senate, April 9, 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 IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2015*):

4 (1) "Private occupational school" means a person, board, association,
5 partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity
6 offering instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial,
7 commercial, service, professional or other occupation for any
8 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise of whatever nature,
9 including, but not limited to, a hospital-based occupational school,
10 barber school or hairdressing school authorized pursuant to section
11 10a-22b, except "private occupational school" shall not include (A)

12 instruction offered under public supervision and control; (B)
13 instruction conducted by a firm or organization solely for the training
14 of its own employees or members; or (C) instruction offered by a
15 school authorized by the General Assembly to confer degrees;

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) As used in this section and
17 sections 3 to 5, inclusive, and section 7 of this act:

18 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
19 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes; and

20 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
21 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

22 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Board of Regents for Higher
23 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
24 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
25 awarded by an institution of higher education or private occupational
26 school in the state for the purpose of creating consistency among the
27 various sub-baccalaureate certificate programs. Not later than January
28 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
29 shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
30 general statutes, a report containing such written definition to the joint
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to higher education.

33 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2016,
34 and annually thereafter, each institution of higher education and
35 private occupational school in the state shall submit data for the prior
36 academic year to the Office of Higher Education regarding its sub-
37 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
38 certificates it offers in a uniform format developed by said office. Such
39 data shall include, but need not be limited to, the following for each
40 sub-baccalaureate certificate program:

41 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

42 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

- 43 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;
- 44 (4) Number and type of certificates awarded by such program;
- 45 (5) Whether academic credits are offered as part of such program;
- 46 (6) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
47 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;
- 48 (7) Whether such program leads to a credential recognized by the
49 industry for which such program prepares a student;
- 50 (8) Whether a student can combine the certificate awarded upon
51 successful completion of such program with any other certificate
52 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
53 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of
54 qualification for a particular trade or occupation; and
- 55 (9) Average length of time to complete such program.

56 (b) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
57 Office of Higher Education shall compile such data for purposes of
58 comparing the various types of sub-baccalaureate programs offered by
59 the institutions of higher education and private occupational schools
60 and determining (1) which programs are similar, (2) student interest in
61 each program and similar programs, and (3) the necessity of offering
62 each program. Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, said
63 office shall make such data available on its Internet web site for the
64 purpose of enabling a student or prospective student to make an
65 informed decision about whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate
66 program and, if so, which program is the best fit for such student.

67 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Each institution of higher
68 education and private occupational school shall develop for each sub-
69 baccalaureate certificate program it offers a one-page fact sheet that
70 provides basic information regarding such program to potential
71 applicants, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books
72 and supplies, room and board, graduation and job placement rates and

73 average student debt.

74 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Board of Regents for
 75 Higher Education shall establish a working group comprised of deans
 76 of continuing education programs at the regional community-technical
 77 colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate
 78 programs offered by each regional community-technical college. Not
 79 later than July 1, 2016, the working group shall design a uniform
 80 naming convention for such programs to enable students to
 81 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
 82 varied requirements within the same field of study. Programs that
 83 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
 84 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

85 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and periodically thereafter as
 86 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
 87 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named sub-baccalaureate
 88 certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to determine if
 89 any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such program are
 90 reasonable.

91 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than January 1, 2017,
 92 the Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
 93 audit not less than a sample of student data from all sub-baccalaureate
 94 certificate programs offered by the institutions of higher education and
 95 the private occupational schools. Said office shall not disclose any
 96 personally identifiable information of any student obtained as a result
 97 of performing the annual audit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-22a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 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 the information and data which is to be reported upon by the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Office of Higher Education is already available in the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) or through other internal sources.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 973*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) and the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to define and monitor sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. The bill specifies that private occupational schools include hospital-based occupational schools, barber schools, and hairdressing schools.

Specifically, the bill requires BOR, in collaboration with OHE, to (1) create written definitions for all sub-baccalaureate certificates awarded by higher education institutions and private occupational schools and (2) report the completed definitions to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee by January 1, 2016. The definitions aim to create consistency among the various certificate programs, according to the bill.

Annually, beginning July 1, 2016, the bill also requires each in-state institution or school to submit data to OHE from the previous academic year about its sub-baccalaureate programs and the types of certificates these programs offer. OHE must develop a uniform format for data submissions, and the bill prescribes a detailed list of data that institutions and schools must submit.

Annually, beginning January 1, 2017, OHE must use the collected data to compare various types of sub-baccalaureate programs to determine similarities, student interest in each program and similar

programs, and necessity of each program. By July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, OHE must post the compiled data on its website so that students and prospective students can make informed decisions about enrollment in and choice of sub-baccalaureate certificate programs.

The bill also requires (1) institutions and schools to develop one-page fact sheets for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program they offer, (2) BOR to establish a working group to review all noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical college (CTC), and (3) OHE to create an annual audit program for data samples submitted by institutions and schools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DATA COLLECTION

The bill requires institutions' and schools' data submissions to OHE about sub-baccalaureate certificate programs to include:

1. the program's name and subject matter area,
2. total program enrollment,
3. any entry-level requirements for program enrollment,
4. the number and type of certificates the program awarded,
5. whether academic credits are offered as part of the program,
6. whether there is a clear pathway from successful program completion to enrollment in a related associate degree program,
7. whether the program leads to a credential recognized by the industry for which the program prepares a student,
8. whether a student can combine the certificate awarded upon successful program completion with any other certificate award upon successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate program in order to achieve a heightened qualification level for

a particular trade or occupation, and

9. the average length of time for program completion.

AUDIT PROGRAM

The bill requires OHE to develop an annual audit program for student data samples from each sub-baccalaureate certificate program offered by higher education institutions and private occupational schools. OHE must not disclose any personally identifiable student information that it may obtain from this audit.

PROGRAM FACT SHEETS

Under the bill, each higher education institution and private occupational school must develop a one-page fact sheet for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program it offers. The fact sheet must contain basic program information to educate potential applicants, including tuition, fees, costs of books and supplies, room and board, graduation and job placement rates, and average student debt.

BOR WORKING GROUP

The bill also requires BOR to establish a working group comprised of CTC continuing education deans to review all non-credit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs that CTCs offer. By July 1, 2016, the working group must design a uniform naming convention for the programs to help students distinguish between programs with similar yet varied requirements in the same field of study. The naming convention must uniformly designate varying programs by indicating different, enhanced, or more demanding requirements.

Additionally, the working group must review tuition for the uniformly named sub-baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications. By July 1, 2016, and periodically thereafter at BOR's request, the review must determine whether tuition and fee cost variations between the programs are reasonable.

BACKGROUND

Higher Education Institution

A higher education institution is a person, school, board, association, limited liability company, or corporation licensed or accredited to offer one or more programs of higher learning leading to one or more degrees (CGS § 10a-34(a)(3)).

Private Occupational School

A private occupational school is a person, board, association, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity offering instruction in any trade or industrial, commercial, service, professional, or other occupation for a remuneration, consideration, reward, or promise. It does not include (1) publicly supervised and controlled instruction, (2) employee or member training offered by a firm or organization, or (3) instruction from a school authorized by the legislature to confer degrees (CGS § 10a-22a).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/13/2015)

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/24/2015)