



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

**Committee Bill No. 6117**

LCO No. 5131



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE  
TEXTBOOKS IN 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) Not later than September  
2 1, 2016, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in collaboration  
3 with the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut and the  
4 Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, shall establish an  
5 open-source textbook consortium of not less than five institutions of  
6 higher education, including, but not limited to, The University of  
7 Connecticut, one state university, one regional community-technical  
8 college, Charter Oak State College and one independent institution of  
9 higher education. The consortium shall annually (1) assess the use of  
10 high-quality and affordable digital open-source textbooks and related  
11 materials to lower the cost of higher education to students, (2) promote  
12 the use of and access to open-source textbooks, and (3) collaborate for  
13 the purposes of developing and acquiring open-source textbooks. For  
14 purposes of this section, "open-source textbooks" means a college-level  
15 textbook licensed under an open copyright license and made available  
16 on an Internet web site to be freely used by students, faculty and

17 members of the public.

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the  
19 consortium of public institutions of higher education shall submit a  
20 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
21 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
22 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding its  
23 duties described in subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish an open-source textbook consortium to help lower the cost of acquiring a college degree in Connecticut.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. HADDAD, 54th Dist.; SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.

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