



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 7007***

LCO No. 5159



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

***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:

6 (1) Increase the education levels of the adult population of the state,  
7 on or before January 1, 2025, to a target of not less than forty per cent  
8 of adults having earned a bachelor degree and not less than thirty per  
9 cent of adults having earned an associate degree or sub-baccalaureate  
10 certificate for purposes of ensuring the state has a workforce with the  
11 skills necessary for achieving and sustaining a competitive economy  
12 by measures including, but not limited to (A) reducing socioeconomic  
13 disparities, (B) reducing the achievement gap between whites and  
14 minorities, as defined in section 10-155l of the general statutes, (C)

15 improving the lives of residents living in the most urbanized areas of  
16 the cities of the state, and (D) ensuring that the quality of  
17 postsecondary education is improved;

18 (2) Develop a globally competitive workforce and economy in the  
19 state by cultivating an environment that attracts and retains a highly  
20 educated, diverse population by (A) aligning postsecondary degree  
21 attainment with the workforce needs of employers in the state, (B)  
22 contributing to the expansion and diversification of the state's  
23 economy through research and innovation, (C) establishing  
24 partnerships between institutions of higher education and business,  
25 civic and cultural leaders in the state, and (D) increasing the number of  
26 students engaged in community service, internships and other  
27 workplace-based learning experiences; and

28 (3) Ensure that higher education is affordable for the residents of the  
29 state by (A) narrowing the gap between the cost of attendance at an  
30 institution of higher education and family income, (B) reducing, on or  
31 before January 1, 2025, the average student loan to the national  
32 average, and (C) increasing, on or before January 1, 2025, by five per  
33 cent the number of recent high school graduates in the state who enroll  
34 in institutions of higher education in the state.

35 (b) For purposes of this section, "sub-baccalaureate certificate"  
36 means a postsecondary award earned on a for-credit basis and  
37 conferred upon successful completion of a formal postsecondary  
38 program below the baccalaureate level.

39 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1b of the general statutes is  
40 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
41 *1, 2015*):

42 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall appoint a  
43 president who shall serve at the pleasure of the board. The president of  
44 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall (1) have the authority  
45 to implement the policies, directives and rules of the board and any

46 additional responsibilities as the board may prescribe, (2) implement  
47 the goals identified in section 1 of this act and recommendations made  
48 pursuant to section 10a-11b, (3) build interdependent support among  
49 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
50 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, (4) balance  
51 central authority with institutional differentiation, autonomy and  
52 creativity, and (5) facilitate cooperation and synergy among the  
53 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
54 technical college system and Charter Oak State College. Said president  
55 may designate an alternate to serve as a member of any commission,  
56 foundation or committee upon which the general statutes require said  
57 president to serve. Such designee may vote on behalf of said president.  
58 There shall be an executive staff responsible for the operation of the  
59 Board of Regents for Higher Education. The executive staff shall be  
60 under the direction of the president of the Board of Regents for Higher  
61 Education, who shall be the chief executive officer of the Board of  
62 Regents for Higher Education.

63 Sec. 3. Section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

65 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish  
66 [state-wide policy and guidelines for Connecticut's system of public  
67 higher education] policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State  
68 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
69 and Charter Oak State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher  
70 education and postsecondary education [.] at the Connecticut State  
71 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
72 and Charter Oak State College consistent with the goals [in subsection  
73 (b) of this section] identified in section 1 of this act; (3) establish [state-  
74 wide] tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State  
75 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
76 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate [institutional]  
77 the effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional  
78 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in

79 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close  
80 institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the  
81 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
82 College in accordance with criteria established by the board, provided  
83 (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds  
84 vote of the board, and (B) notice of such recommended merger or  
85 closing shall be sent to the committee having cognizance over matters  
86 relating to education and to the General Assembly; (6) review and  
87 approve mission statements for the Connecticut State University  
88 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
89 Oak State College and role and scope statements for the individual  
90 institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and  
91 approve any recommendations for the establishment of new academic  
92 programs submitted to the board by the state [colleges] universities  
93 within the Connecticut State University System, the regional  
94 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College, and, in  
95 consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the  
96 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; [The  
97 Board of Regents for Higher Education shall notify the board of  
98 trustees affected by the proposed termination of an academic program.  
99 Within ninety days of receipt of such notice, said trustees shall accept  
100 or reject the termination proposal and shall notify the Board of Regents  
101 for Higher Education of its action. If the termination proposal is  
102 rejected by the trustees, the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
103 may override the rejection by a two-thirds vote;] (8) develop criteria to  
104 ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs [and institutions] at the  
105 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
106 technical college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B)  
107 institutions within the Connecticut State University System and the  
108 regional community-technical college system and enforce standards  
109 through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the  
110 Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8,  
111 consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets for [public  
112 higher education] the Connecticut State University System, the

113 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
114 College developed in accordance with the provisions of said section  
115 10a-8; [(10) review and make recommendations on plans received from  
116 the constituent unit boards of trustees for the continuing development  
117 and maximum utilization of the state's public higher education  
118 resources; (11) appoint advisory committees to assist in defining and  
119 suggesting solutions for the problems and needs of higher education;  
120 (12) establish an advisory council for higher education with  
121 representatives from public and private institutions to study methods  
122 and proposals for coordinating efforts of all such institutions in  
123 providing a stimulating and enriched educational environment for the  
124 citizens of the state, including measures to improve educational  
125 opportunities through alternative and nontraditional approaches such  
126 as external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate  
127 programs and services throughout public higher education and  
128 between public and independent institutions, including procedures to  
129 evaluate the impact on independent institutions of higher education of  
130 proposals affecting public institutions of higher education; (14)] (10)  
131 make or enter into contracts, leases or other agreements in connection  
132 with its responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of  
133 real estate by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of  
134 section 4b-23; [(15) ] (11) be responsible for the care and maintenance  
135 of permanent records of institutions of higher education dissolved  
136 after September 1, 1969; [(16)] (12) prepare and present to the Governor  
137 and General Assembly legislative proposals affecting [public higher  
138 education, including proposals which utilize programs and facilities of  
139 independent institutions of higher education; (17)] the Connecticut  
140 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
141 system and Charter Oak State College; (13) develop and maintain a  
142 central higher education information system and establish definitions  
143 and data requirements for the [state system of higher education; (18)]  
144 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
145 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (14) report all  
146 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State

147 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
148 and Charter Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and  
149 [(19)] (15) undertake such studies and other activities as will best serve  
150 the higher educational interests of the [state] Connecticut State  
151 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
152 and Charter Oak State College.

153 (b) Within the limits of authorized expenditures, the policies of the  
154 state system of higher education shall be consistent with (1) the  
155 following goals: [(1)] (A) To ensure that no qualified person be denied  
156 the opportunity for higher education on the basis of age, sex, gender  
157 identity or expression, ethnic background or social, physical or  
158 economic condition, [(2)] and (B) to protect academic freedom, [(3) to  
159 provide opportunities for education and training related to the  
160 economic, cultural and educational development of the state, (4) to  
161 assure the fullest possible use of available resources in public and  
162 private institutions of higher education, (5) to maintain standards of  
163 quality ensuring a position of national leadership for state institutions  
164 of higher education, (6) to apply the resources of higher education to  
165 the problems of society, and (7) to foster flexibility in the policies and  
166 institutions of higher education to enable the system to respond to  
167 changes in the economy, society, technology and student interests] and  
168 (2) the goals for higher education in the state identified in section 1 of  
169 this act. Said board shall review recent studies of the need for higher  
170 education services, with special attention to those completed pursuant  
171 to legislative action, and to meet such needs shall initiate additional  
172 programs or services through one or more of the constituent units.

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

174 (d) The board of regents shall request and receive, or be provided  
175 electronic access to, data, reports and other information from the  
176 constituent units of the state system of higher education that is  
177 necessary for the board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this  
178 section.

179       Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10a-6b of the general statutes is  
 180 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
 181 *1, 2015*):

182       (b) In developing the measures pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
 183 section, the council shall consider: [(1) Graduation rates, (2) student  
 184 retention rates, (3) completions, (4) tuition and fees, (5) allocation of  
 185 resources across expenditure functions, as defined by the National  
 186 Association of College and University Business Officers, (6) revenues  
 187 and expenditures broken out by programs, (7) student financial need  
 188 and available aid, (8) transfer patterns of students transferring in and  
 189 out of the constituent units, (9) trends in enrollment and the  
 190 percentage of incoming students who are state residents, (10) strategic  
 191 plans pursuant to section 10a-11, (11) data on graduates, including age,  
 192 by academic and noncredit vocational course and program, (12) faculty  
 193 productivity, (13) the] (1) The goals adopted by the Planning  
 194 Commission for Higher Education and identified in section 1 of this  
 195 act, and [(14)] (2) any other factor that it deems relevant. All measures  
 196 shall be made available for inspection and separated out by constituent  
 197 unit, institution of higher education, campus and program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-1b(a)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-6
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-6b(b)

**Statement of Purpose:**

To adopt the recommendations of the Planning Commission for Higher Education for the goals of higher education in the state.

*[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.]*