



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 532

LCO No. 4453



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING TUITION WAIVERS FOR CHARTER OAK
STATE COLLEGE.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-143 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2015*):

3 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in concert with the
4 state's institutions of higher education, shall study, develop and
5 coordinate the implementation of new methods of awarding
6 undergraduate degrees and college credits including but not limited
7 to: (1) External degrees awarded on the basis of acceptable
8 performance in an educational field whether or not the necessary
9 education was obtained by the candidate at an institution of higher
10 education, and (2) examinations and methods other than classroom
11 instruction for determining qualifications. On or before July 1, 1993,
12 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education shall
13 establish procedures to award college credits pursuant to this
14 subsection and subsection (e) of this section.

15 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promulgate

16 regulations to authorize accredited institutions of higher education to
17 award degrees by such new procedures.

18 (c) Charter Oak State College shall be an independent constituent
19 unit of the state system of higher education with authority to grant
20 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees on the basis of (1)
21 examinations, (2) courses offered by Charter Oak State College, and (3)
22 other forms of evaluation and validation of learning including transfer
23 of credit. Said college is authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State
24 College" on diplomas and other documents and utterances to affirm
25 the status of the college as a degree-granting institution of higher
26 education. It shall be the responsibility of the college to serve the
27 interest of all Connecticut residents by providing open access to
28 academic credentials which are based on a consensus of professional
29 judgment. The purpose of such credentials shall be to identify and give
30 recognition to higher learning acquired by individuals through
31 independent study, work experience and programs of noncollegiate
32 educational activity.

33 (d) (1) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall develop and
34 implement programs at Charter Oak State College to improve
35 opportunities in higher education through alternative modes of
36 service, including, but not limited to, guidance and information
37 services, registration and validation services, examination and degree-
38 granting services, technological delivery systems, and projects of
39 research and development. The board may appoint a chief academic
40 and administrative officer and a professional academic staff of Charter
41 Oak State College. The board may appoint and remove executive staff
42 responsible for the operation of Charter Oak State College. The board
43 may determine the size of the academic staff and the duties, terms, and
44 conditions of employment of said director and staff. The board shall
45 establish through appointments on an adjunct basis a faculty of
46 consulting examiners at Charter Oak State College to make
47 recommendations as to requirements and standards of the college's
48 programs and to make recommendations for the award of academic

49 undergraduate and graduate credits and degrees. Persons serving as
50 members of the faculty of consulting examiners shall have appropriate
51 professional qualifications as determined by the board and may hold
52 professional appointments in active status at accredited institutions of
53 postsecondary or higher learning. Within the limit of appropriations,
54 the board shall fix the compensation of persons serving with adjunct
55 appointment as members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The
56 board shall confer such undergraduate and graduate certificates and
57 degrees as are appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher
58 learning at Charter Oak State College and in accordance with the
59 recommendations of the board's faculty of consulting examiners on the
60 basis of (A) examinations, (B) courses offered by Charter Oak State
61 College, and (C) other forms of validation and evaluation of learning,
62 including transfer of credit. The board shall assist public institutions of
63 higher education in establishing and implementing procedures to
64 award college credits pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

65 (2) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall develop a
66 mission statement for Charter Oak State College which shall include,
67 but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational
68 needs of, and constituencies served by said college; (B) the degrees
69 offered by said college; and (C) the role and scope of the programs
70 offered by said college.

71 (e) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other
72 purposes as the board deems necessary on behalf of Charter Oak State
73 College and may make refunds and other disposition of same as
74 provided by law or regulation. The board may make contracts, leases
75 or other agreements in connection with its responsibilities.

76 (f) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall establish and
77 administer a fund to be known as the Board of Regents for Higher
78 Education for Charter Oak State College Operating Fund, which shall
79 be a separate account within the General Fund. The operating fund
80 shall be used for the expenses of Charter Oak State College, including

81 personnel expenses and equipment, and for the support of college
82 activities pursuant to this section, including validation and evaluation
83 of learning, guidance and public information services, projects of
84 research and development for the improvement of learning materials
85 and the technology of delivery systems, and for the purchase of such
86 services, materials and equipment as are required for use in connection
87 with said activities. Appropriations from general revenues of the state,
88 all fees and proceeds of the board's activities on behalf of Charter Oak
89 State College, including grants and donations, not required by statute
90 or regulation to be deposited to the credit of the General Fund, shall be
91 credited to and become a part of the resources of said operating fund.
92 Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain in said
93 operating fund. Not later than sixty days after the close of each
94 quarter, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit to the
95 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
96 of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,
97 the Office of Higher Education and the Office of Policy and
98 Management a report on the actual expenditures of the Board of
99 Regents for Higher Education for Charter Oak State College Operating
100 Fund.

101 (g) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall promote fund-
102 raising to assist Charter Oak State College's programs pursuant to this
103 section and shall report to the joint standing committee of the General
104 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
105 by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising.

106 (h) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall waive the
107 payment of course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College for any
108 active member of the Connecticut Army or Air National Guard who
109 (1) has been certified by the Adjutant General or the Adjutant
110 General's designee as a member in good standing of the guard, and (2)
111 is enrolled or accepted for admission to Charter Oak State College on a
112 full-time or part-time basis in a degree granting program. If any person
113 who receives a course enrollment fee waiver in accordance with the

114 provisions of this subsection also receives educational reimbursement
115 from an employer, such waiver shall be reduced by the amount of such
116 educational reimbursement. Members of the National Guard described
117 in this subsection shall be given the same status as students not
118 receiving course enrollment fee waivers in registering for courses at
119 Charter Oak State College. Notwithstanding the provisions of section
120 10a-30, as used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes
121 domiciled for less than one year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2015	10a-143

Statement of Purpose:

To provide tuition waivers for Charter Oak State College to members of the National Guard.

[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: SEN. FLEXER, 29th Dist.; REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.
REP. NICASTRO, 79th Dist.; REP. ADINOLFI, 103rd Dist.

S.B. 532