



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2015

LCO No. 7062



Offered by:

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REP. WILLIS, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
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REP. BETTS, 78<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. LEGEY, 17<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6117

File No. 224

Cal. No. 155

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE  
TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) For purposes of this section and  
4 section 2 of this act:

5 (1) "Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium" means the division  
6 of Charter Oak State College that provides services and support to  
7 help educators develop and deliver effective technology-enhanced  
8 learning opportunities to students and adults in the workforce;

9 (2) "Open educational resources" includes the full courses, course  
10 materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software and  
11 other similar teaching, learning and research resources that reside in  
12 the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property

13 license that permits the free use and repurposing of such resources;

14 (3) "Open license" means a world-wide, royalty-free, nonexclusive,  
15 perpetual and irrevocable copyright license granting the public  
16 permission to access, reproduce, publicly perform, publicly display,  
17 adapt, distribute and otherwise use, for any purpose, the work and  
18 adaptations of such work when credit or acknowledgment is given to  
19 any designated author of such work; and

20 (4) "Open-source textbook" means a college-level textbook licensed  
21 under an open license and made available on an Internet web site to be  
22 used by students, faculty and members of the public on an unlimited  
23 basis at minimal or no cost.

24 (b) The Board of Regents for Higher Education and The University  
25 of Connecticut shall each establish an open-source textbook pilot  
26 program to (1) assess the use of high-quality digital open-source  
27 textbooks, and (2) promote the use of and access to open-source  
28 textbooks within their respective constituent units. The programming  
29 for such pilot programs, shall include, but not be limited to, seminars  
30 and workshops on awareness and implementation of open-source  
31 textbooks and open educational resources for faculty and staff of the  
32 institutions of higher education under the jurisdiction of such  
33 constituent units and workshops on supportive open educational  
34 resources policy and administration for academic leaders of such  
35 institutions. The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium may share  
36 such programming with its private members at a cost to be determined  
37 by said consortium.

38 (c) Not later than July 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents  
39 for Higher Education and the president of The University of  
40 Connecticut shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section  
41 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the  
42 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
43 education, regarding such pilot programs. Such report shall include (1)  
44 an analysis of the potential cost savings to students for courses using

45 an open-source textbook in lieu of a traditional college-level textbook,  
46 and (2) the identification of any barriers to the effective use of open-  
47 source textbooks by students and faculty.

48 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to  
49 study best practices with regard to open educational resources. The  
50 task force shall consider the development of a program to incentivize  
51 the creation or adaptation of open educational resources that will  
52 significantly reduce the cost to students of course materials, including,  
53 but not limited to, offering financial or academic or professional credit  
54 to faculty to create open educational resources.

55 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

56 (1) One faculty member and one administrator of The University of  
57 Connecticut, who shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of  
58 Representatives;

59 (2) One faculty member and one administrator of the regional  
60 community-technical college system, who shall be appointed by the  
61 president pro tempore of the Senate;

62 (3) One administrator of Charter Oak State College and one student  
63 of a public institution of higher education representing a formally  
64 recognized student organization, who shall be appointed by the  
65 majority leader of the House of Representatives;

66 (4) One faculty member of Charter Oak State College and one  
67 student of an independent institution of higher education in the state  
68 who represents a formally recognized student organization, who shall  
69 be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

70 (5) One faculty member and one administrator of the Connecticut  
71 State University System, who shall be appointed by the minority  
72 leader of the House of Representatives;

73 (6) One faculty member and one administrator of an independent

74 institution of higher education, who shall be appointed by the minority  
75 leader of the Senate;

76 (7) The president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, or  
77 the president's designee;

78 (8) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the  
79 president's designee;

80 (9) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the  
81 executive director's designee;

82 (10) The chief academic officer of The University of Connecticut, or  
83 the chief academic officer's designee; and

84 (11) The chief academic officer of the Board of Regents for Higher  
85 Education, or the chief academic officer's designee.

86 (c) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
87 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
88 filled by the appointing authority.

89 (d) The executive director of the Office of Higher Education, or the  
90 executive director's designee, shall schedule the first meeting of the  
91 task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the  
92 effective date of this section. The members of the task force shall select  
93 the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task  
94 force. One such chairperson shall be from an institution of higher  
95 education under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents for Higher  
96 Education, and the other such chairperson shall be from The  
97 University of Connecticut.

98 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
99 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
100 education shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

101 (f) Not later than October 1, 2016, the task force shall submit a report

102 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee  
103 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
104 higher education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
105 the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
106 submits such report or October 1, 2016, whichever is earlier."

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>from passage</i>	New section