



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 5047



Offered by:

REP. WILLIS, 64<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. BETTS, 78<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. WITKOS, 8<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. HADDAD, 54<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5070

File No. 224

Cal. No. 167

**"AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION."**

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

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
4 2017, the Office of Higher Education shall enter into a multistate or  
5 regional reciprocity agreement for purposes of enabling the state and  
6 Connecticut institutions of higher education to participate in a nation-  
7 wide state authorization reciprocity agreement (1) establishing  
8 uniform standards for distance learning programs across states, and (2)  
9 eliminating the need for a state participating in the state authorization  
10 reciprocity agreement to assess the quality of a distance learning  
11 program offered by an out-of-state institution of higher education  
12 through the participating state's authorization, licensing and  
13 accreditation process. Notwithstanding the provisions of part III of

14 chapter 185 of the general statutes and upon the Office of Higher  
 15 Education entering into the multistate or regional reciprocity  
 16 agreement, an out-of-state institution of higher education that  
 17 participates in the state authorization reciprocity agreement may  
 18 operate a distance learning program in the state in accordance with the  
 19 uniform standards.

20 (b) Any Connecticut institution of higher education that seeks to  
 21 participate in the nation-wide state authorization reciprocity  
 22 agreement under subsection (a) of this section shall submit an  
 23 application with the Office of Higher Education on a form prescribed  
 24 by the office. The office shall approve or reject the institution's  
 25 application in accordance with the terms of such agreement.  
 26 Authorization by the office to participate in such agreement shall be  
 27 valid for a period of one year and may be renewed by the office for  
 28 additional one-year periods. The office shall establish a schedule of  
 29 application and renewal fees for all Connecticut institutions of higher  
 30 education that participate in such agreement. The fee schedule shall be  
 31 graduated based on the number of full-time equivalent students at  
 32 each Connecticut institution of higher education.

33 (c) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to  
 34 affect the authority of the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of  
 35 chapter 735a of the general statutes or Title X of the Dodd-Frank Wall  
 36 Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, P.L. 111-203, as amended  
 37 from time to time."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section