



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2016

LCO No. 3990



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. LOPES, 24<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. HADDAD, 54<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5072

File No. 57

Cal. No. 74

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

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

3 "Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes  
4 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
5 *1, 2016*):

6 (1) "Private occupational school" means a person, board, association,  
7 partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity  
8 offering instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial,  
9 commercial, service, professional or other occupation for any  
10 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise of whatever nature,  
11 including, but not limited to, a hospital-based occupational school, or  
12 any program, school or entity offering postsecondary instruction in  
13 barbering or hairdressing, except "private occupational school" shall

14 not include (A) instruction offered under public supervision and  
15 control; (B) instruction conducted by a firm or organization solely for  
16 the training of its own employees or members; or (C) instruction  
17 offered by a school authorized by the General Assembly to confer  
18 degrees;

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) As used in this section and  
20 sections 3 to 5, inclusive, and section 7 of this act:

21 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as  
22 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes;

23 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided  
24 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act; and

25 (3) "Student cohort" means a group of students who enroll at the  
26 same period of time in the same certificate program.

27 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) The Board of Regents for Higher  
28 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall  
29 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates  
30 earned on a for-credit or noncredit basis and awarded by an institution  
31 of higher education or private occupational school in the state for the  
32 purpose of creating consistency among the various sub-baccalaureate  
33 certificate programs. Not later than January 1, 2017, the president of  
34 the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance  
35 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, a report  
36 containing such written definition to the joint standing committee of  
37 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher  
38 education.

39 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) Each institution of higher  
40 education and private occupational school in the state shall submit  
41 data for the prior academic year to the Office of Higher Education, in a  
42 uniform format prescribed by said office, regarding its for-credit sub-  
43 baccalaureate programs and the types of for-credit certificates it offers  
44 not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and regarding

45 its noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of  
46 noncredit certificates it offers not later than January 1, 2019, and  
47 annually thereafter. Such data shall include, but need not be limited to,  
48 the following for each sub-baccalaureate certificate program:

49 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

50 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

51 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;

52 (4) Number and type of certificates awarded by such program;

53 (5) Tuition and fees charged for completion of such program in the  
54 time period prescribed by such program;

55 (6) Estimated range of costs relating to the purchase of books and  
56 supplies, unless such costs are included as part of the tuition and fees  
57 of such institution or school for such program;

58 (7) Median loan debt incurred by students who complete such  
59 program, to the extent such information has been reported to the  
60 financial aid office of the institution of higher education or private  
61 occupational school offering such program, separately by Title IV  
62 loans and other education debt, including private and institutional  
63 loans;

64 (8) Basic demographic information, to the extent available, of the  
65 students enrolled in such program, including, but not limited to,  
66 gender, age, race and ethnicity;

67 (9) Percentage of students in each student cohort who completed  
68 such program in the time period prescribed by such program;

69 (10) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of  
70 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;

71 (11) Whether such program leads to a credential recognized by the  
72 industry for which such program prepares a student;

73 (12) Whether a student may combine the certificate awarded upon  
74 successful completion of such program with any other certificate  
75 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate  
76 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of  
77 qualification for a particular trade or occupation;

78 (13) Average length of time to complete such program;

79 (14) Employment rates, to the extent available, for students who  
80 have completed such program at six months after completion of such  
81 program;

82 (15) Student cohort pass rate, to the extent available, for national  
83 certification programs; and

84 (16) Student cohort licensure rate, to the extent available, for  
85 positions requiring the certificate and state licensure.

86 (b) The Office of Higher Education shall collect for each sub-  
87 baccalaureate certificate program offered by an institution of higher  
88 education or private occupational school in the state (1) the average  
89 starting salary for entry-level positions requiring the certificate, and (2)  
90 the average salary for jobs requiring the certificate, based on available  
91 Labor Department statistics, for each for-credit program, not later than  
92 January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, and for each noncredit  
93 program, not later than January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter.

94 (c) Not later than January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Office  
95 of Higher Education shall compile the data submitted pursuant to  
96 subsection (a) of this section and collected pursuant to subsection (b) of  
97 this section for purposes of comparing the sub-baccalaureate certificate  
98 programs offered by the institutions of higher education and private  
99 occupational schools and determining (1) which programs are similar  
100 to other programs, (2) student interest in each program and similar  
101 programs, and (3) the necessity of offering each program. Not later  
102 than July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, said office shall make such  
103 data available on its Internet web site for the purpose of enabling a

104 student or prospective student to make an informed decision about  
105 whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate certificate program and, if so,  
106 which program is the best fit for such student.

107 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than July 1, 2019, and  
108 annually thereafter, the Office of Higher Education shall develop and  
109 post on its Internet web site a one-page fact sheet for each sub-  
110 baccalaureate certificate program offered by each institution of higher  
111 education and private occupational school in the state. Such fact sheet  
112 shall contain data submitted and collected pursuant to section 4 of this  
113 act, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books and  
114 supplies, graduation and, to the extent available, job placement rates  
115 and average student debt. Not later than seven days after the office  
116 posts the fact sheet on its Internet web site, and annually thereafter,  
117 each institution of higher education and private occupational school  
118 shall make such fact sheet available to its current and prospective  
119 students by means, including, but not limited to, posting such fact  
120 sheet on its Internet web site.

121 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) The Board of Regents for  
122 Higher Education, under the direction of its chief academic officer,  
123 shall establish a working group comprised of deans of continuing  
124 education programs, or their designees, at the regional community-  
125 technical colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate  
126 certificate programs offered by each regional community-technical  
127 college for purposes of designing a uniform naming convention for  
128 such programs. Not later than January 1, 2019, the working group shall  
129 design the uniform naming convention to enable students to  
130 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet  
131 varied requirements within the same field of study. Any programs that  
132 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,  
133 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

134 (b) Not later than February 1, 2019, and periodically thereafter as  
135 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working  
136 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named noncredit sub-

137 baccalaureate certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to  
138 determine if any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such  
139 program are reasonable.

140 (c) Not later than March 1, 2019, the president of the Board of  
141 Regents for Higher Education shall report, in accordance with the  
142 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
143 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
144 relating to higher education regarding the uniform naming convention  
145 designed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the  
146 determination made from the tuition review required under subsection  
147 (b) of this section.

148 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) Not later than July 1, 2019, the  
149 Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually  
150 review not less than a sample of student data from all for-credit and  
151 noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate programs offered by the  
152 institutions of higher education and the private occupational schools.  
153 Said office shall not disclose any personally identifiable information of  
154 any student obtained as a result of performing the annual review."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10a-22a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section