
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5136

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATE-WIDE STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENSURE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill transfers, from the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to UConn's Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR), responsibility for developing (1) a strategic plan for ensuring racial and ethnic diversity among students, faculty, administrators, and staff at each of the state's public higher education institutions and (2) policies to guide equal employment opportunity officers and programs at the institutions. Current law requires OHE to develop the strategic plan in consultation with the institutions and their boards of trustees.

Under the bill, BOT and BOR must develop a statewide strategic plan that each of the institutions must implement, rather than an approved plan for each institution. As under current law, the plan must include (1) goals, (2) programs and timetables for achieving the goals, and (3) procedures to annually monitor the programs' results and take any necessary corrective actions. The bill allows BOT and BOR, rather than OHE, to establish a minority advancement program to reward and support efforts by the institutions they govern towards meeting the strategic plan's goals.

The bill similarly transfers from OHE to BOT and BOR responsibility for preparing the annual report on the strategic plan and equal opportunity policies. It requires them to submit the report to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, in addition to the governor as under current law. By law, the report must include institutional goals, plans for attaining them, and enrollment

and employment changes at each institution. If an institution fails to achieve its goals, the law requires it to develop a correction plan to ensure that the goals are achieved. The bill requires the institution's respective board, rather than OHE, to approve the correction plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/15/2018)