
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 214

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSOLIDATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to provide the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee with three types of notice when it approves a recommended merger or consolidation of any Connecticut State University System, community-technical college, or Charter Oak State College institutions.

The first update occurs semiannually before the committee by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) president and the chairpersons or vice-chairpersons of the faculty advisory and student advisory committees. This notice must occur every February and September through the year after the receipt of accreditation for the newly merged or consolidated institutions.

The second update is a report from BOR describing any function efficiencies and cost savings achieved by the merger and consolidation, submitted within two years after the newly merged or consolidated institutions receive accreditation.

Third, the bill requires BOR and the CSCU president to disclose to the co-chairpersons and ranking member of the committee any communications with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (see BACKGROUND) about the merger or consolidation.

The bill also requires BOR to report to the Higher Education Committee, rather than the Education Committee and General Assembly, about the recommended closure, merger, or consolidation of any higher education institutions under the board's authority in order for such action to be valid under state law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018

BACKGROUND

New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)

NEASC and its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is the regional accrediting agency for colleges and universities in the six New England states.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 3 (03/06/2018)