

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5136

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF

**Title:** HIGHER EDUCATION.

**Vote Date:** 3/15/2018

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/20/2018

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following Joint Favorable Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

### **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

### **REASONS FOR BILL:**

To shift the responsibility of developing and implementing a statewide strategic plan to ensure that UConn is representative of the total state population's racial and ethnic diversity from the Office of Higher Education to UConn's Board of Trustees.

Substitute language:

- Throughout: shifts responsibility to develop strategic plan from OHE to UConn/BOR

### **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Keith M. Norton, Acting Executive Director, Office of Higher Education](#): Acting Executive Director Norton testified in favor of this bill. He stated that the Office of Higher Education does not have oversight of the public institutions of higher education in the state. This bars them from being able to fulfill the requirements of the statute as currently written.

### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[John Brady, Executive Vice President, AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO](#): Executive Vice President Brady expressed concerns that the language of the bill would make permissive that the Office of Higher Education develop a strategic plan to ensure racial and ethnic diversity at public institutions of higher education. He emphasized that it would negate the requirement that the Office of Higher Education do so and the requirement that the Office of Higher Education report annually to the Governor and General Assembly.

**Reported by:** Stephanie Goebel

**Date:** March 20, 2018