

**Proposed Substitute
Bill No. 214**

February Session, 2018

LCO No. 2210

AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSOLIDATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2018*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System,
6 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak
7 State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and
8 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,
9 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak
10 State College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)
11 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State
12 University System, the regional community-technical college system
13 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the
14 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
15 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in
16 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge,
17 consolidate or close any institutions within the Connecticut State
18 University System, the regional community-technical college system
19 and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria established

20 by the board, provided (A) such recommended merger, consolidation
21 or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the board, and (B) the
22 board provides notice [of such recommended merger or closing shall
23 be sent] of (i) such recommended closing, or (ii) such recommended
24 merger or consolidation in accordance with the provisions of section 2
25 of this act, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
26 having cognizance [over] of matters relating to higher education; [and
27 to the General Assembly;] (6) review and approve mission statements
28 for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
29 technical college system and Charter Oak State College and role and
30 scope statements for the individual institutions and campuses of such
31 constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations for
32 the establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board
33 by the state universities within the Connecticut State University
34 System, the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak
35 State College, and, in consultation with the affected constituent units,
36 provide for the initiation, consolidation or termination of academic
37 programs; (8) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A)
38 programs at the Connecticut State University System, the regional
39 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College,
40 and (B) institutions within the Connecticut State University System
41 and the regional community-technical college system and enforce
42 standards through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present
43 to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section
44 10a-8, consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets for the
45 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
46 technical college system and Charter Oak State College developed in
47 accordance with the provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and
48 make recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
49 University System, the regional community-technical college system
50 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
51 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
52 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
53 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public
54 institutions of higher education under its jurisdiction with The

55 University of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher
56 education to implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12)
57 evaluate (A) means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-
58 11c, and (B) any recommendations made by the Planning Commission
59 for Higher Education in implementing the strategic master plan
60 pursuant to section 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional
61 approaches such as external degrees and credit by examination; (13)
62 coordinate programs and services among the Connecticut State
63 University System, the regional community-technical college system
64 and Charter Oak State College; (14) assess opportunities for
65 collaboration with The University of Connecticut and the independent
66 institutions of higher education to implement the goals identified in
67 section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into contracts, leases or other
68 agreements in connection with its responsibilities under this part,
69 provided all acquisitions of real estate by lease or otherwise shall be
70 subject to the provisions of section 4b-23; (16) be responsible for the
71 care and maintenance of permanent records of institutions of higher
72 education dissolved after September 1, 1969; (17) prepare and present
73 to the Governor and General Assembly legislative proposals affecting
74 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
75 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (18) develop
76 and maintain a central higher education information system and
77 establish definitions and data requirements for the Connecticut State
78 University System, the regional community-technical college system
79 and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all new programs and
80 program changes at the Connecticut State University System, the
81 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
82 College to the Office of Higher Education; and (20) undertake such
83 studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational
84 interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional
85 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

86 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2018*) (a) If the Board of Regents for
87 Higher Education approves a recommended merger or consolidation
88 of any of the institutions within the Connecticut State University
89 System, the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak

90 State College pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (a) of section
91 10a-6 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the board shall
92 notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
93 cognizance of matters relating to higher education and employment
94 advancement as follows:

95 (1) The president of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities,
96 the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the faculty advisory committee,
97 established pursuant to sections 10a-3a of the general statutes, and the
98 chairperson or the vice-chairperson of the student advisory committee,
99 established pursuant to section 10a-3 of the general statutes, shall
100 appear before said committee in February and September of each year,
101 until the February or September immediately following the receipt of
102 accreditation for such merged or consolidated institutions, to update
103 said committee on the merger or consolidation process.

104 (2) The Board of Regents for Higher Education and the president of
105 the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities shall disclose to the
106 cochairpersons and ranking members of said committee any
107 communication with the New England Association of Schools and
108 Colleges relating to such recommended merger or consolidation.

109 (b) Not later than two years after the institutions to be merged or
110 consolidated receive accreditation, the Board of Regents for Higher
111 Education shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
112 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
113 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
114 education. Such report shall describe any efficiency of function and
115 cost savings achieved by such merged or consolidated institution.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10a-6(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section