

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7162

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Higher Ed., Off.	GF - Cost	Up to 1,103,777	Up to 1,103,777
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	10,926	10,926

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill creates the Connecticut Open Educational Resource Coordinating Council and results in a cost of up to \$1,103,777, annually in the Office of Higher Education (OHE).

The bill requires the council to establish a state-sponsored digital clearinghouse to function as the central database for the collection, storage and purchase of open educational resources (OERs). It is estimated, based on similar state-sponsored digital clearinghouses in other state agencies, that the annual costs of building, maintaining, and updating this system would be up to \$1 million.

The bill requires the executive director of the OHE to appoint members to the council and for OHE staff to be administrative staff to the council. This results in one additional part-time Senior Consultant

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.

position within OHE and additional costs in each fiscal year of approximately \$38,703, including: salary costs of \$26,527, other expenses costs of \$1,250, and fringe benefit costs of \$10,926. Additionally, members of the council may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses; these costs are anticipated to be less than \$1,000 annually.

Lastly, the bill requires the council to establish a competitive grant program for the development, conversion, or adoption of OERs. It is anticipated that this grant program would require up to \$75,000 in FY 20, and could grow significantly in the out years as additional faculty members apply for grants.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the amount of competitive grants available to faculty members.

Sources: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/10/02/06el-library.h33.html>
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/81/98/8198.pdf>