

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-7162

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL

Title: RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Vote Date: 3/14/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/5/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement

REASONS FOR BILL:

Substitute language has been made for this bill in lines 5-7 to clarify that an “open educational resource” is a college resource offered at a cost lower than the marketing value of the printed textbook or other resource. Line 16 clarifies that “high-impact course” makes a positive impact that is “financial” in nature. Lines 34-35 add a college student (public or private) to the Connecticut Open Educational Resource Coordinating Council.

This bill is to lower the costs of textbooks and course materials for Connecticut students of higher education through an online open educational resource program.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Anne Langley, Dean of UConn Library, University of Connecticut](#): UConn Library supports HB 7162, stating that Open Educational Resources can support students’ success and degree completion. Consumer prices for textbooks increased 88 percent between January 2006 and July 2016. The open educational resources (OER) established through HB 7162 would make educational content more accessible and affordable for students.

[Timothy D. Larson, Executive Director, Office of Higher Education](#): While commending the efforts of HB 7162, the Office of Higher Education (OHE) is opposed to this bill due to the agency’s lack of “manpower, funds, and software required to meet the expectations” of this program. The OHE executive director would be required to appoint members to the Connecticut Open Educational Resource Coordinating Council that this bill would establish, a task that they do not have the means to accomplish.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Justin Kaiser, Legislative Program Director, Connecticut Public Interest Research Group, [Part I](#), [Part II](#), [Part III](#), [Part IV](#): Justin Kaiser testified in support of HB 7162, as it promotes affordable higher education in Connecticut. “65% of students have skipped buying books because of cost despite 94% understanding it would impact their grade in that class.” Mr. Kaiser suggests making an amendment to the bill that would include at least one student to be appointed to the coordinating council, stating that “the student perspective is critical to the effectiveness of this effort.”

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

See RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/ AGENCY

Reported by: Beatrice O’Neil

Date: 04/02/2019