



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7162

LCO No. 4547



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT OPEN EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Open educational resource" means a college level resource
4 made available on an Internet web site to be used by students, faculty
5 and members of the public on an unlimited basis at a minimal cost,
6 including full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming
7 videos, tests, software and other similar teaching, learning and
8 research resources that reside in the public domain or have been
9 released under a creative commons attribution license that permits the
10 free use and repurposing of such resources;

11 (2) "Creative commons attribution license" means a copyright
12 crediting the author of a digital work product that allows for the free
13 use and distribution of such work product; and

14 (3) "High-impact course" means a course of instruction for which
15 open educational resources would make a significant positive impact
16 on the students taking the course due to the number of students taking
17 the course and the marketing value of the printed textbook or other
18 educational resources required for such course.

19 (b) There is established the Connecticut Open Educational Resource
20 Coordinating Council, which shall be part of the Executive
21 Department. The executive director of the Office of Higher Education
22 shall appoint the members of the council which shall consist of the
23 following: (1) A state-wide coordinator who shall collaborate with all
24 institutions of higher education to promote open educational resources
25 and administer grants; (2) one faculty member, one administrator and
26 one staff member from The University of Connecticut; (3) one faculty
27 member, one administrator and one staff member from the regional
28 community-technical college system; (4) one faculty member, one
29 administrator and one staff member from Charter Oak State College;
30 (5) one faculty member, one administrator and one staff member from
31 the Connecticut State University System; and (6) one faculty member,
32 one administrator and one staff member from the independent
33 institutions of higher education. All initial appointments to the council
34 shall be made not later than September 1, 2019, and shall expire on
35 August 30, 2022, regardless of when the initial appointment was made.
36 Any member of the council may serve more than one term.

37 (c) The state-wide coordinator appointed by the executive director
38 of the Office of Higher Education shall serve as the chairperson of the
39 council. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the council,
40 which shall be held not later than October 1, 2019. The administrative
41 staff of the Office of Higher Education shall serve as administrative
42 staff of the council.

43 (d) Appointed members of the council shall serve for three-year
44 terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
45 provided in subsection (b) of this section. Members shall continue to
46 serve until their successors are appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled

47 by the executive director of the Office of Higher Education. Any
48 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for
49 the balance of the unexpired term. A majority of the council shall
50 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The members
51 of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the
52 limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
53 incurred in the performance of their duties.

54 (e) The council shall perform the following functions:

55 (1) Identify high-impact courses for which open educational
56 resources will be developed, converted or adopted;

57 (2) Establish a program of competitive grants for faculty members of
58 institutions of higher education in the state for the development,
59 conversion or adoption of open educational resources for high-impact
60 courses with any funds identified by the council and within available
61 appropriations;

62 (3) Accept, review and approve competitive grant applications,
63 provided any faculty member who is approved for a competitive grant
64 shall license such open educational resources through a creative
65 commons attribution license;

66 (4) Administer a standardized review and approval process for the
67 development, conversion or adoption of open educational resources;

68 (5) Establish a state-sponsored digital clearinghouse that shall
69 function as a publicly accessible database for the collection, storage
70 and purchase of open educational resources; and

71 (6) Promote strategies for the production, use and access of open
72 educational resources.

73 (f) The council shall meet quarterly, or as often as deemed necessary
74 by a majority of the council.

75 (g) Not later than January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the

76 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
77 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
78 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
79 education regarding (1) the number and percentage of high-impact
80 courses for which open educational resources have been developed, (2)
81 the degree to which institutions of higher education promote the use
82 and access to open educational resources through the state-sponsored
83 digital clearinghouse, (3) the amount of grants awarded by the council
84 and the number of open educational resources developed by grant
85 recipients, and (4) its recommendations for any amendments to the
86 general statutes necessary to develop open educational resources.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish an open educational resource program to help lower the cost of textbooks and course materials at institutions of higher education.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]