AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) In addition to the object set forth in section 10a-102 of the general statutes for The University of Connecticut, said university and the president and Board of Trustees of said university shall seek to educate students in studies and disciplines designed to meet the present and projected future needs of the state's workforce and to promote the state's economic development by assisting in the establishment of new businesses in the state based on university-driven innovations and facilitating the transfer and accessibility of university-driven technology and patents to such new businesses.

Sec. 2. Section 10a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) There shall continue to be a Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut to consist of twenty-one persons, twelve to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity and fulfill the qualifications set forth in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this subsection; two to be elected by the university alumni; two to be elected by the students enrolled at the institutions under the jurisdiction of said board; and five members ex officio.
(1) (A) On or before July 1, 1983, the Governor shall appoint members to the board as follows: Four members for a term of two years from said date; four members for a term of four years from said date; and four members for a term of six years from said date. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint trustees of said university to succeed those appointees whose terms expire, and each trustee so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment, provided two of the trustees appointed for terms commencing July 1, 1995, and their successors shall be alumni of the university, one of the trustees appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and his or her successors shall be such alumni and one of the members appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1999, and his or her successors shall be such alumni.

(B) At least two of the members appointed by the Governor for a term commencing on or after July 1, 2019, shall have experience recognized by said university as an entrepreneur or an investor in business ventures.

(2) The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the chairperson of The University of Connecticut Health Center Board of Directors shall be, ex officio, members of the board of trustees. The Governor shall be, ex officio, president of said board.

(b) (1) The graduates of all of the schools and colleges of said university shall, prior to September first in the odd-numbered years, elect one trustee, who shall be a graduate of the institution and who shall hold office for four years from the first day of September succeeding his or her election. Not less than two or more than four nominations for each such election shall be made by the alumni association of said university, provided no person who has served as an alumni trustee for the two full consecutive terms immediately prior to the term for which such election is to be held shall be nominated for
any such election. Such election shall be conducted by mail prior to
September first under the supervision of a canvassing board consisting
of three members, one appointed by the board of trustees, one by the
board of directors of the alumni association of the university and one
by the president of the university. No ballot in such election shall be
opened until the date by which ballots must be returned to the
canvassing board. In such election, all graduates shall be entitled to
vote by signed ballots which have been circulated to them by mail and
which shall be returned by mail. Vacancies occurring by death or
resignation of either of such alumni trustees shall be filled for the
unexpired portion of the term by special election, if such unexpired
term is for more than eighteen months. When the unexpired term is
eighteen months or less, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment
by the board of directors of said alumni association.

(2) On or before November 1, 1975, the students of The University of
Connecticut shall, in such manner as the board of trustees of said
university shall determine, elect two trustees, each of whom shall be
enrolled as a full-time student of said university at the time of his or
her election. One such member shall be elected for a term of one year
from November 1, 1975, and one for a term of two years from said
date. Prior to July first, annually, such students shall, in accordance
with this section and in such manner as the board shall determine,
elect one member of said board, who shall be so enrolled at said
university at the time of his or her election and who shall serve for a
term of two years from July first in the year of his or her election. The
student member elected to fill the term expiring on June 30, 2003, and
such elected member's successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time
undergraduate student at a school or college of the university and shall
be elected by the undergraduate students of the schools and colleges of
the university. The student member elected to fill the term expiring on
June 30, 2004, and such elected member's successors, shall be enrolled
as a full-time student in the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the
School of Dentistry, the School of Social Work, or as a graduate student
of a school or college of the university, and shall be elected by the
students of the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social Work and the graduate students of the schools and colleges of the university. Any student member elected after July 1, 2013, shall be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of his or her election and for the duration of his or her term of service. Any vacancies in the elected membership of said board shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, be filled by special election for the balance of the unexpired term.

Sec. 3. Section 10a-104 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall: (1) Make rules for the government of the university and shall determine the general policies of the university, including those concerning the admission of students and the establishment of schools, colleges, divisions and departments, which policies shall be consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and shall direct the expenditure of the university’s funds within the amounts available; (2) develop the mission statement for The University of Connecticut, and all campuses thereof, that shall be consistent with such goals and include, but not be limited to, the following elements: (A) The educational needs of and constituencies served by said university and campuses; (B) the degrees offered by said university; and (C) the role and scope of each institution and campus within the university system, which shall include each institution’s and campus’ particular strengths and specialties; (3) establish policies for the university system and for the individual institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (4) review and approve recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs; (5) report all new programs and program changes to the Office of Higher Education; (6) make recommendations, when appropriate, regarding institutional or campus mergers or closures; (7) coordinate the programs and services of the institutions and campuses under its jurisdiction; (8) be authorized to enter into agreements, consistent with the provisions of section 5-141d, to save harmless and
indemnify sponsors of research grants to The University of Connecticut, provided such an agreement is required to receive the grant and limits liability to damages or injury resulting from acts or omissions related to such research by employees of the university; (9) promote fund-raising to assist the university and report to the executive director of the Office of Higher Education and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on such fund-raising; (10) charge the direct costs for a building project under its jurisdiction to the bond fund account for such project, provided (A) such costs are charged in accordance with a procedure approved by the Treasurer and (B) nothing in this subdivision shall permit the charging of working capital costs, as defined in the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, or costs originally paid from sources other than the bond fund account; (11) exercise the powers delegated to it pursuant to section 10a-109d; and (12) establish by October 1, 1997, policies governing the acceptance of gifts made by a foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f to the university or its employees for reimbursement of expenditures or payment of expenditures on behalf of the university or its employees.

(b) The board of trustees shall: (1) Review and approve institutional budget requests and prepare and submit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the budget request for the university and all campuses thereof; (2) propose facility planning and capital expenditure budget priorities for the institutions under its jurisdiction; (3) fulfill requirements concerning the auditing and review of projects of UCONN 2000 in accordance with sections 10a-109z to 10a-109bb, inclusive; (4) establish the construction assurance office in accordance with section 10a-109cc; and (5) exercise the powers delegated to it in section 10a-109d. The board may request authority from the Treasurer to issue payment for claims against the university, other than a payment for payroll, debt service payable on state bonds to
bondholders, paying agents, or trustees, or any payment the source of which includes the proceeds of a state bond issue.

(c) The board of trustees may create a board of directors for the governance of The University of Connecticut Health Center and may delegate such duties and authority as it deems necessary and appropriate to said board of directors. The board of directors shall include members of the board of trustees designated by the chairperson of the board of trustees and such other persons as the board of trustees deems appropriate.

(d) There is established a standing subcommittee of the board of trustees responsible for addressing entrepreneurial issues. Members of the subcommittee shall include, at a minimum, the two board members appointed with entrepreneurial experience described in subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10a-103, as amended by this act, and shall not include more than seven board members. The subcommittee shall be responsible for drafting all initial resolutions for the fulfillment of the board of trustees' responsibilities relating to entrepreneurship at the university. Subcommittee members shall appear annually before the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education, commerce and finance, revenue and bonding to report on the subcommittee's activities and the university's related performance.

Sec. 4. Section 10a-108 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The board of trustees shall appoint a president of the university. Said president shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the university and of the board of trustees. Said president shall carry out the policies and enforce the rules adopted by the board of trustees and shall have the authority necessary therefor. The board of trustees may employ the faculty and other personnel needed to operate and maintain the institutions under its jurisdiction. Within the limitation of appropriations, the board of trustees shall fix the compensation of such
personnel, establish terms and conditions of employment and prescribe their duties and qualifications. Said board shall determine who constitutes its professional staff and establish compensation and classification schedules for its professional staff. The board shall annually submit to the Commissioner of Administrative Services a list of the positions which it has included within the professional staff.

(b) The president of The University of Connecticut, in consultation with the board of trustees, shall establish the position of Vice President for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Connecticut. The vice president shall report directly to the president. The vice president's duties shall include, but need not be limited to, assisting the president in the implementation of all of the president's duties and responsibilities relating to entrepreneurship and investment at the university. The president shall not hire any person as vice president under this section unless such person demonstrates recent experience in the development or growing of an entrepreneurial culture at The University of Connecticut or another institution of higher education.

Sec. 5. Section 10a-104c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall develop, continuously maintain and revise from time to time a program to facilitate the recruitment of eminent faculty and their research staffs to the university. Such program shall support economic development in the state through commercialization of faculty research and promote core [competency areas] sectors of the state economy by accelerating the pace of applied research and development. Such program shall supplement the compensation of such faculty and related costs of personnel and materials needed to secure such faculty for the university. Eligibility shall be limited to scientists who have demonstrated excellence in their field of research and have an interest in working collaboratively with other scientists at the university and [an] a demonstrated interest in past and future commercialization of their research.
[(b) No funds shall be expended under this section until the president of The University of Connecticut certifies to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management that the university or the university's foundation established pursuant to sections 4-37e and 4-37f has received written commitments for financial support from industry or other sources of not less than two million dollars for purposes identified in subsection (a) of this section.]  

(b) Not later than November 15, 2019, said board shall develop and implement a plan for the recruitment and hiring of faculty who have experience as entrepreneurs or in the commercialization of research. Such plan shall include related recruitment and hiring goals for each science, technology, engineering and math department of said university and shall set a goal of achieving the entrepreneurship ratio, established in the final report under section 8 of this act, not later than January 1, 2026.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the president of The University of Connecticut shall conduct all business on behalf of The University of Connecticut in accordance with the objectives set forth in section 10a-102 of the general statutes and section 1 of this act.

(b) On and after July 1, 2019, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall include, in all marketing and promotional materials for student recruitment, information that highlights the entrepreneurial activity of the university's students and faculty, including profiles of successful student or faculty-led ventures, entrepreneurial course offerings, services and programming for the support of entrepreneurial student efforts, and the existence of any entrepreneurial clubs or fraternities. The board shall utilize social media for such marketing and promotional efforts.

(c) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall release for open, public use and freely license any and all patents held by the board that have not been utilized for commercialization or
otherwise licensed for a period of ten years or more.

(d) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the president of The University of Connecticut shall build and foster, through a series of activities, a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among the students enrolled at each campus of The University of Connecticut, in accordance with the objectives of section 1 of this act. Such activities shall include, but need not be limited to, organizing and hosting regular networking events for student and faculty entrepreneurs, and the support of relevant student clubs and organizations.

(e) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the president of The University of Connecticut shall seek to build entrepreneurial relationships between The University of Connecticut and other public or independent institutions of higher education in the state that are engaged in entrepreneurial efforts, including, but not limited to, Yale University.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2021, the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall design and implement a mentorship initiative to cultivate a robust group of alumni and faculty of The University of Connecticut who have significant experience in entrepreneurship and other prominent entrepreneurs in the state, to mentor and advise students and other faculty of the university in the creation and growth of new business ventures. Such mentorship initiative shall be (1) developed in coordination with and integrated into any entrepreneur-in-residence or mentorship initiatives administered by CTNext, established pursuant to section 32-39f of the general statutes, (2) revised subject to, or developed in accordance with, recommendations contained in the final report approved by the board of trustees pursuant to section 8 of this act, and (3) modeled on comparable programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The board of trustees shall make all reasonable efforts to engage and consult with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to design such mentorship initiative, including making any payments for consulting
fees that may be required.

Sec. 7. Section 10a-10900 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) The University of Connecticut shall develop a comprehensive plan to guide Next Generation Connecticut investments. The university shall develop such plan in consultation with: (1) An industry advisory board selected by the university that shall be representative of the state's science, technology, engineering and math-related industries and shall include, but not be limited to, chief science officers or chief technology officers from such industries; (2) an independent research and development advisory firm selected by the university; (3) university academic leaders; (4) federal and private funding agencies; and (5) research and innovation benchmarks identified by the university and an analysis of the university's progress in meeting such benchmarks in comparison to nationally ranked research universities. Such plan shall identify strategic growth areas for the research, innovation, workforce and economic development needs of Connecticut. The industry advisory board, independent research and development advisory firm and university academic leaders shall seek input from the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding, commerce and higher education prior to the completion of the plan. The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall review and approve such plan not later than July 1, 2014.

(b) Not later than thirty days after the date the final report under section 8 of this act is approved by the board of trustees, The University of Connecticut shall revise the comprehensive plan to include provisions for the construction or renovation of a facility on each campus of the university, not more than one-quarter mile from the student union or student center of the campus, that is designed to meet the needs of student entrepreneurs and to serve as a gathering place for such students and other persons who support such student's
ventures. Such facility shall not be adjoined to a dormitory and shall be
designed and located conveniently to attract and encourage its use by
student entrepreneurs and faculty affiliated with any and all schools
and departments of the university, as well as their guests from outside
the university.

Sec. 8. (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) (1) The University of Connecticut
and the CTNext board of directors shall jointly approve the hiring of a
consultant, to be paid from the operating expenses funds of The
University of Connecticut or from UConn 2000 or Next Generation
Connecticut funds, to conduct a study jointly with representatives of
said university appointed by the president of said university. Such
study shall review the technology transfer policies used at leading
institutions of higher education renowned for innovation and
entrepreneurship, including, but not limited to, Stanford University
and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The president and the
board of trustees of said university shall provide to such consultant
any information requested by such consultant for the purposes of this
section.

(2) The consultant and university representatives shall be advised
and guided by an advisory panel of entrepreneurs and business
leaders, appointed as follows: (A) Four members appointed by the
board of trustees, and (B) three members appointed by the CTNext
board of directors.

(b) The consultant and university representatives shall select those
policies such consultant and representatives deem to be the best and
develop recommendations for reforming the technology transfer
policies of The University of Connecticut. Such study shall include (1)
plans to maximize the number of new business ventures formed
through the commercialization of faculty and student research, giving
greater priority to the financial interests of such business ventures than
to the recoupment of patent-related or other royalties or profit for The
University of Connecticut, (2) plans to focus The University of
Connecticut's technology transfer policies on start-up business
formation rather than patent licensing, (3) recommendations for staffing levels and staff organization to achieve such plans, and (4) any other recommendations requested by the board of trustees or the CTNext board of directors. Any remuneration paid to The University of Connecticut as a result of such new business ventures shall be used to encourage further formation or growth of other new business ventures.

(c) The consultant and university representatives shall conduct a review of (1) the current policies of The University of Connecticut for the fostering of faculty and student entrepreneurship, and (2) the proportion of the total activities of The University of Connecticut School of Business that is oriented toward the creation and support of new business ventures.

(d) The consultant and university representatives shall prepare a report for submission to the CTNext board of directors and shall solicit input from the Higher Education Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 32-39t of the general statutes and, at not less than one meeting of the working group established pursuant to section 32-39s of the general statutes, from members of such working group. The report shall include:

(1) Recommendations for (A) the continuous improvement of the policies set forth under subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, taking into consideration the best practices of entrepreneurship at institutions studied under subsection (a) of this section, and (B) actionable measures to make the creation and support of new business ventures a primary consideration in all activities of, and for all degree programs offered at, The University of Connecticut School of Business;

(2) (A) Recommendations, if any, of changes to the recruitment and hiring plan and goals set forth in subsection (b) of section 10a-104c of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) establishment of an entrepreneurship ratio of faculty members who teach entrepreneurship to the overall student body, which matches that of
leading universities;

(3) Consideration of all funds available to The University of Connecticut and legislative recommendations, if any, to changes in the funding levels of said university;

(4) Development of a comprehensive plan of metrics to be used for the tracking and analysis of said university’s success in facilitating the creation of new business ventures based on faculty and student research. Such metrics shall (A) be identified in part through a review of similar metrics tracked by leading institutions of higher education renowned for innovation and entrepreneurship, including, but not limited to, Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University and the University of Michigan, and (B) include methods to track the economic impact of entrepreneurs who are among the faculty and alumni of The University of Connecticut; and

(5) An analysis of comparative rankings made by qualified experts of institutions of higher education in the United States, with respect to such institutions' success in innovation and entrepreneurship, including a ranking of The University of Connecticut, and identification of a ranking or a range of rankings said university shall seek to attain.

(e) Not later than January 1, 2020, the consultant and university representatives shall submit the report to the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut. Not later than January 31, 2020, the board of trustees shall either approve such report or request modifications to such report. The consultant and university representatives shall be provided thirty days after receiving a request for modifications to submit a revised draft report to the board of trustees. Upon final approval of the report, the board of trustees shall submit such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education and finance,
revenue and bonding and to the CTNext board of directors. Each of said committees shall raise a bill during the 2020 or 2021 regular session to implement the legislative recommendations contained in such report. The board of trustees may adopt a resolution to implement the recommendations for said university that are contained in such report.

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Statement of Legislative Commissioners:
In Section 3(d), "four" was changed to "two" for consistency; in Section 6(a), reference to section 10a-102 of the general statutes was added for accuracy; in Section 6(f), Subdivs. (2) and (3) were reordered for clarity; and in Section 8(e), the next to last sentence was redrafted for clarity.

FIN Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO