OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 7119

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT TRUSTEES AND THE ELECTION OF ALUMNI TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

SUMMARY

This bill increases the number of UConn Board of Trustee (BOT) members from 21 to 23 by adding one undergraduate and one graduate student trustee. Thus, under the bill, the board will have a total of four student trustees: two elected undergraduate students, and two elected graduate students.

By July 1, 2020, the bill requires UConn (1) undergraduate students to elect an additional undergraduate student trustee to serve a two-year term, and (2) graduate students to elect an additional graduate student to serve a one-year term. The graduate student must be enrolled in the School of Law, School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, or School of Social Work, or be a graduate student in a UConn school or college. Both of these student trustee positions (1) carry two-year terms after their initial terms, and (2) must be filled by full-time students for the duration of their terms.

The bill requires the BOT, by July 1, 2020, to appoint:

1. to its financial affairs committee at least one undergraduate student member, one of whom must be one of the elected undergraduate student trustees; and

2. to its student life committee at least two student members, one of whom must be the other elected undergraduate student trustee, and the second of whom must be an undergraduate student selected by the undergraduate student government.
Current law requires elections for alumni trustees to be conducted by mail using paper ballots. The bill additionally allows for these elections to be conducted using electronic ballots.

This bill also makes various technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

RELATED BILL
HB 5829, reported favorably by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, adds two additional student members to the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The bill brings the total student members to four, thus increasing the total board membership to 23.

COMMITTEE ACTION
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 16 Nay 6 (03/14/2019)