OLR Bill Analysis

SB 749

AN ACT REQUIRING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR THE MERGER OR CLOSING OF INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill imposes a new condition on the Board of Regents for Higher Education’s (BOR’s) authority to merge or close institutions within the Connecticut State University or regional community-technical college systems or Charter Oak State College. It also revises the legislative notice requirements that BOR must follow when recommending an institutional merger or closure.

Under current law, BOR may merge or close the above institutions upon a two-thirds vote of its members and after notifying the General Assembly and the Education Committee about the recommended merger or closure. The bill adds a new condition, requiring acceptance of a merger or closure by a majority vote of both the House and Senate. In the event that the legislature fails to act within one year of receiving notice or by adjournment of the next regular legislative session, whichever is later, the merger or closure is deemed accepted under the bill. Conversely, the merger or closure may be rejected by a majority vote of at least one chamber under the bill.

Additionally, the bill requires BOR to notify the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee about institutional mergers or closures the board has voted to recommend, rather than the General Assembly and the Education Committee as required under current law. (Presumably, the bill measures the deadline by which the General Assembly must vote on BOR’s recommendation from the date the committee receives notice, since the General Assembly itself no longer directly receives notice under the bill.)

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019
**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

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(03/14/2019)