



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 19

LCO No. 721



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT ON COLLEGE
CAMPUSES.***

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 10a-55m of the 2020
2 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):

4 (a) For purposes of this section, [and] sections 10a-55n to 10a-55q,
5 inclusive, and sections 2 and 3 of this act:

6 (1) "Affirmative consent" means an active, clear and voluntary
7 agreement by a person to engage in sexual activity with another person;

8 (2) "Awareness programming" means institutional action designed to
9 inform the campus community of the affirmative consent standard used
10 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, and
11 communicate the prevalence of sexual assaults, stalking and intimate
12 partner violence, including the nature and number of cases of sexual
13 assault, stalking and intimate partner violence reported at or disclosed

14 to each institution of higher education in the preceding three calendar
15 years, including, but not limited to, poster and flyer campaigns,
16 electronic communications, films, guest speakers, symposia,
17 conferences, seminars or panel discussions;

18 (3) "Bystander intervention" means the act of challenging the social
19 norms that support, condone or permit sexual assault, stalking and
20 intimate partner violence;

21 (4) "Institution of higher education" means an institution of higher
22 education, as defined in section 10a-55, and a for-profit institution of
23 higher education licensed to operate in this state, but shall not include
24 Charter Oak State College for purposes of subsections (c) and (f) of this
25 section and sections 10a-55n to 10a-55p, inclusive;

26 (5) "Intimate partner violence" means any physical or sexual harm
27 against an individual by a current or former spouse of or person in a
28 dating relationship with such individual that results from any action by
29 such spouse or such person that may be classified as a sexual assault
30 under section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised
31 to January 1, 2019, or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or
32 53a-73a, stalking under section 53a-181c, 53a-181d or 53a-181e, or family
33 violence as designated under section 46b-38h;

34 (6) "Primary prevention programming" means institutional action
35 and strategies intended to prevent sexual assault, stalking and intimate
36 partner violence before it occurs by means of changing social norms and
37 other approaches, including, but not limited to, poster and flyer
38 campaigns, electronic communications, films, guest speakers, symposia,
39 conferences, seminars or panel discussions;

40 (7) "Sexual assault" means a sexual assault under section 53a-70, 53a-
41 70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b or 53a-73a;

42 (8) "Stalking" means stalking under section 53a-181c, 53a-181d or 53a-
43 181e; and

44 (9) "Uniform campus crime report" means a campus crime report
45 prepared by an institution of higher education pursuant to section 10a-
46 55a.

47 (b) Each institution of higher education shall adopt and disclose in
48 such institution's annual uniform campus crime report one or more
49 policies regarding sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence.
50 Such policy or policies shall include provisions for:

51 (1) Informing students and employees that, in the context of an
52 alleged violation of the policy or policies regarding sexual assault and
53 intimate partner violence, (A) affirmative consent is the standard used
54 in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was given
55 by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity, (B) affirmative
56 consent may be revoked at any time during the sexual activity by any
57 person engaged in the sexual activity, (C) it is the responsibility of each
58 person to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of all persons
59 engaged in the sexual activity to engage in the sexual activity and that
60 the affirmative consent is sustained throughout the sexual activity, (D)
61 it shall not be a valid excuse to an alleged lack of affirmative consent
62 that the student or employee responding to the alleged violation
63 believed that the student or employee reporting or disclosing the
64 alleged violation consented to the sexual activity (i) because the
65 responding student or employee was intoxicated or reckless or failed to
66 take reasonable steps to ascertain whether the student or employee
67 reporting or disclosing the alleged violation affirmatively consented, or
68 (ii) if the responding student or employee knew or should have known
69 that the student or employee reporting or disclosing the alleged
70 violation was unable to consent because such student or employee was
71 unconscious, asleep, unable to communicate due to a mental or physical
72 condition, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or
73 medication, and (E) the existence of a past or current dating or sexual
74 relationship between the student or employee reporting or disclosing
75 the alleged violation and the responding student or employee, in and of
76 itself, shall not be determinative of a finding of affirmative consent;

77 (2) Detailing the procedures that students and employees of the
78 institution who report or disclose being the victim of sexual assault,
79 stalking or intimate partner violence may follow after the commission
80 of such assault, stalking or violence, regardless of where such incidences
81 occurred, including persons or agencies to contact and information
82 regarding the importance of preserving physical evidence of such
83 assault, stalking or violence;

84 (3) Providing students and employees of the institution who report
85 or disclose being the victim of sexual assault, stalking or intimate
86 partner violence both concise, written contact information for and, if
87 requested, professional assistance in accessing and utilizing campus,
88 local advocacy, counseling, health and mental health services, and
89 concise information, written in plain language, concerning the rights of
90 such students and employees to (A) notify law enforcement of such
91 assault, stalking or violence and receive assistance from campus
92 authorities in making any such notification, and (B) obtain a protective
93 order, apply for a temporary restraining order or seek enforcement of
94 an existing protective or restraining order, including, but not limited to,
95 orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15, 46b-38c, 53a-40e, 54-1k, 54-82q
96 or 54-82r, against the perpetrator of such assault, stalking or violence;

97 (4) Notifying such students and employees of any reasonably
98 available options for and available assistance from such institution in
99 changing academic, living, campus transportation or working situations
100 in response to [such] sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner
101 violence;

102 (5) Honoring any lawful protective or temporary restraining orders,
103 including, but not limited to, orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15,
104 46b-38c, 53a-40e, 54-1k, 54-82q or 54-82r;

105 (6) Disclosing a summary of such institution's student investigation
106 and disciplinary procedures, including clear statements advising that
107 (A) a student or employee who reports or discloses being a victim of
108 [such] sexual assault, stalking or intimate partner violence shall have the

109 opportunity to request that an investigation begin promptly, (B) the
110 investigation and any disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted by
111 an official trained annually in issues relating to sexual assault, stalking
112 and intimate partner violence and shall use the preponderance of the
113 evidence standard in making a determination concerning the alleged
114 assault, stalking or violence, (C) both the student or employee who
115 reports or discloses the alleged assault, stalking or violence and the
116 student responding to such report or disclosure (i) are entitled to be
117 accompanied to any meeting or proceeding relating to the allegation of
118 such assault, stalking or violence by an advisor or support person of
119 their choice, provided the involvement of such advisor or support
120 person does not result in the postponement or delay of such meeting as
121 scheduled, and (ii) shall have the opportunity to present evidence and
122 witnesses on their behalf during any disciplinary proceeding, (D) both
123 the student or employee reporting or disclosing the alleged assault
124 stalking or violence and such responding student are entitled to be
125 informed in writing of the results of any disciplinary proceeding not
126 later than one business day after the conclusion of such proceeding, (E)
127 the institution of higher education shall not disclose the identity of any
128 party to an investigation or disciplinary proceeding, except as necessary
129 to carry out the investigation or disciplinary proceeding or as permitted
130 under state or federal law, [and] (F) a standard of affirmative consent is
131 used in determining whether consent to engage in sexual activity was
132 given by all persons who engaged in the sexual activity, and (G) a
133 student or employee who reports or discloses the alleged assault,
134 stalking or violence shall not be subject to disciplinary action for
135 violation of a policy of the institution of higher education if (i) the report
136 or disclosure was made in good faith, and (ii) the violation of such policy
137 did not place the health or safety of another person at risk, including,
138 but not limited to, when the violation of such policy involves the use of
139 alcohol, drugs or other banned substances that does not place the health
140 or safety of another person at risk;

141 (7) Disclosing a summary of such institution's employee investigation
142 and disciplinary procedures, including clear statements advising that a

143 standard of affirmative consent is used in determining whether consent
144 to engage in sexual activity was given by all persons who engaged in
145 the sexual activity; and

146 (8) Disclosing the range of sanctions that may be imposed following
147 the implementation of such institution's student and employee
148 disciplinary procedures in response to such assault, stalking or violence.

149 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2020*) (a) There is established a Council
150 on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey, which shall be part of the
151 Legislative Department.

152 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

153 (1) The cochairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General
154 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
155 and employment advancement;

156 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
157 who has expertise in development and design of sexual misconduct
158 climate surveys;

159 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
160 shall be a student enrolled in a public institution of higher education in
161 the state;

162 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
163 Representatives, who has expertise in statistics, data analytics or
164 econometrics related to higher education surveys;

165 (5) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
166 a student enrolled in an independent institution of higher education in
167 the state;

168 (6) A representative of the Victim Rights Center of Connecticut, who
169 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of
170 Representatives;

171 (7) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
172 a Title IX coordinator at an institution of higher education in the state;

173 (8) The Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, or the
174 commissioner's designee;

175 (9) The president of The University of Connecticut, or the president's
176 designee;

177 (10) A representative of the Connecticut State University System, who
178 shall be appointed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education;

179 (11) A representative of the regional community-technical college
180 system, who shall be appointed by the Board of Regents for Higher
181 Education;

182 (12) A representative of the independent institutions of higher
183 education in the state, who shall be appointed by the Connecticut
184 Conference of Independent Colleges;

185 (13) Three representatives of victims of sexual assault or intimate
186 partner violence, who shall be appointed by the Connecticut Alliance to
187 End Sexual Violence, one of whom shall represent such victims in rural
188 communities and one of whom shall represent such victims in urban
189 communities;

190 (14) A representative of victims of intimate partner violence, who
191 shall be appointed by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic
192 Violence;

193 (15) A representative of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer
194 persons, who shall be appointed by True Colors, Inc.; and

195 (16) A person appointed by the Every Voice Coalition.

196 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subsection (b) of this
197 section may be a member of the General Assembly.

198 (d) All initial appointments to the council shall be made not later than

199 sixty days after the effective date of this section and shall terminate on
200 June 30, 2022, regardless of when the initial appointment was made.
201 Any member of the council may serve more than one term.

202 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
203 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the council from
204 among the members of the council. Such chairperson shall schedule the
205 first meeting of the council, which shall be held not later than sixty days
206 after the effective date of this section.

207 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
208 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
209 education shall serve as administrative staff of the council.

210 (g) Appointed members of the council shall serve for two-year terms
211 which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as provided
212 in subsection (d) of this section. Members shall continue to serve until
213 their successors are appointed.

214 (h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
215 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
216 balance of the unexpired term.

217 (i) A majority of the council shall constitute a quorum for the
218 transaction of any business.

219 (j) The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but
220 shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses
221 necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

222 (k) The council shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
223 Develop and update a sexual misconduct climate survey for use by
224 institutions of higher education for the purpose of assessing the climate
225 on college campuses related to sexual assault, stalking and intimate
226 partner violence, which survey may include, but not be limited to,
227 questions regarding (A) student awareness of institutional policies and
228 procedures related to sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner

229 violence, (B) if a student reported sexual assault, stalking or violence to
230 an institution of higher education or law enforcement, the response to
231 and results of such report, the facts surrounding such assault, stalking
232 or violence and the demographic information of the victim, and (C)
233 student perceptions of campus safety; (2) recommend guidelines for the
234 implementation of such survey, which shall include, but need not be
235 limited to, the goal of (A) achieving a high rate of response to such
236 survey to ensure statistically accurate survey results, (B) protecting the
237 anonymity of respondents to such survey, and (C) receiving responses
238 to such survey from as broad and diverse a segment of the student
239 population as possible; (3) obtain from any executive department,
240 board, commission or other agency of the state such assistance and data
241 as necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (4)
242 accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the
243 duties described in this section; and (5) perform such other acts as may
244 be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this
245 section.

246 (l) The council shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the
247 chairperson or a majority of the council. Any appointed member who
248 fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per
249 cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to
250 have resigned from the council.

251 (m) Not later than July 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, the council
252 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
253 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
254 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
255 and to each institution of higher education in the state on the sexual
256 misconduct climate survey developed by the council which shall
257 include, but need not be limited to, (1) a copy of the sexual misconduct
258 climate survey; and (2) recommended guidelines for the
259 implementation of such survey.

260 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2020*) (a) Not later than October 1, 2021,
261 and biennially thereafter, each institution of higher education in the

262 state shall distribute the sexual misconduct climate survey developed
263 by the Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey, pursuant to
264 section 2 of this act, to each student enrolled at such institution in
265 accordance with the guidelines recommended by said council. Any
266 institution may append to the sexual misconduct climate survey
267 additional institution or campus-specific questions, provided such
268 additional questions, if any, (1) do not require the disclosure of personal
269 identifying information, or (2) are not unnecessarily traumatizing to
270 victims of sexual assault, stalking or violence.

271 (b) Each institution of higher education shall distribute with the
272 sexual misconduct climate survey a statement that (1) the anonymity of
273 survey respondents shall be protected, (2) students should not disclose
274 personal identifying information with their survey responses, and (3)
275 the responses to the survey may not be used as a basis of investigation,
276 disciplinary action or legal proceeding.

277 (c) Not later than March 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, each
278 institution of higher education in the state shall (1) submit a report, in
279 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
280 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
281 cognizance of matters relating to higher education on the summary
282 results for each question of the sexual misconduct climate survey, and
283 (2) post on its Internet web site the campus level results of the sexual
284 misconduct climate survey, the uniform campus crime report required
285 pursuant to section 10a-55a of the general statutes and an Internet link
286 to the summary results of such survey reported to the joint standing
287 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
288 relating to higher education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	10a-55m(a) and (b)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) establish a Council on Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey to create a sexual misconduct climate survey for use by institutions of higher education in the state, and (2) protect students who report being a victim or witness of sexual assault, stalking or violence from disciplinary action by the institution 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.]