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

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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2020):

(a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3) establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional
community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) merge or close institutions within the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria established by the board, provided (A) such recommended merger or closing shall require a two-thirds vote of the board, [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be sent, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance over matters relating to higher education, and [to the General Assembly] (C) such recommended merger or closing shall be accepted by a majority vote of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of either house of the General Assembly not later than one year after receiving notice by the board pursuant to this subsection or the adjournment of the next regular session of the General Assembly, whichever is later, provided if the General Assembly fails to act, such recommended merger or closing shall be deemed accepted; (6) review and approve mission statements for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College and role and scope statements for the individual institutions and campuses of such constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations for the establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board by the state universities within the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College, and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; (8) develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions within the Connecticut State University System and the regional community-technical college system and enforce standards through licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets
for the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
technical college system and Charter Oak State College developed in
accordance with the provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and
make recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State
University System, the regional community-technical college system
and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in
section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives
from public and independent institutions of higher education to study
methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions
of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of
Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)
means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)
any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher
Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section
10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as
external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs
and services among the Connecticut State University System, the
regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University
of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to
implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into
contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its
responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate
by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;
(16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records
of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;
(17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly
legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,
the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State
College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education
information system and establish definitions and data requirements for
the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-
technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all
new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State University
System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter
Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and (20) undertake
such studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational
interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional
community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section | July 1, 2020 | 10a-6(a) |

**Statement of Purpose:**
To require legislative approval for the merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut state colleges and universities.

[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.]