



General Assembly

February Session, 2020

Raised Bill No. 5355

LCO No. 1791



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ON COLLEGE
CAMPUSES.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2020*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2021, the
2 governing board of each institution of higher education in the state shall
3 develop and adopt a policy on freedom of expression for any campus of
4 such institution. Such policy shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the
5 goal of prioritizing freedom of expression in the fulfillment of such
6 institution's mission, including, but not limited to, freedom of
7 expression in research, teaching, discussion and debate, (2) the role of
8 the institution in protecting freedom of expression on campus,
9 including when the ideas or opinions expressed are disagreeable or
10 offensive, (3) reasonable limitations on time, place and manner of
11 expression, provided such limitations are content neutral and necessary
12 to a compelling institutional interest, (4) allowance for protest or
13 demonstration by any person lawfully present on campus, including a
14 spontaneous protest or demonstration, provided such protest or
15 demonstration does not substantially or materially interfere with such

16 institution's function or in the ability of others to engage in or listen to
17 an expressive activity, (5) the designation of public areas on campus as
18 public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker, (6) the
19 availability of resources for protecting the safety and freedom of
20 expression of any speaker invited on campus by any student, student
21 group or faculty member, which resources shall be available on the same
22 terms to any invited speaker.

23 (b) Not later than February 1, 2021, the governing board of each
24 institution of higher education shall submit, in accordance with the
25 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
26 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
27 relating to higher education the policy adopted by such institution in
28 accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2020</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require institutions of higher education in the state to adopt a policy on freedom of expression.

[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.]