
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6403

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

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates the Board of Regents for Higher Education's (BOR's) authority to merge or close institutions within the Connecticut State University and regional community-technical college systems and Charter Oak State College, replacing it with the authority to make merger or closing recommendations to the legislature. The bill also (1) creates new legislative notice requirements that BOR must follow when recommending an institutional merger or closure and (2) establishes mechanisms for the legislature to approve or reject BOR's recommendations.

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 instead requires (1) BOR to notify only the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and (2) a majority vote of both the House and Senate to approve a BOR-recommended merger or closure.

Under the bill, if the legislature fails to act within one year of receiving notice or by adjournment of the next regular legislative session, whichever is later, then the merger or closure is deemed approved. Conversely, the merger or closure may be rejected by a majority vote of at least one chamber under the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 3 (03/11/2021)