
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 954 (File 191, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF INCIDENTS THAT RESULTED IN SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES OR DEATH AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill adds a new reporting requirement to the annual uniform campus crime report that all Connecticut colleges and universities prepare. It renames the report the “uniform campus crime and safety incident report” and requires the institutions’ reports to include the number of accidents that occurred in the immediately preceding calendar year on the property that they own or control and result in (1) serious physical injury and (2) death. This property includes campuses or dormitories in another country that an institution owns or controls for purposes of an international studies or international exchange program (i.e., study abroad).

Under the bill, “serious physical injury” means physical injury that creates substantial risk of death or causes serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or serious loss or impairment of a bodily organ’s function.

Additionally, the bill removes the requirement that the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities’ president determine how institutions must prepare their uniform campus crime reports. It also makes other technical and conforming changes.

*Senate Amendment “A” renames the uniform campus crime report; requires institutions to report accidents, rather than incidents, resulting in serious physical injury and death; expands the definition of institutional property to include international campuses and dormitories; and makes additional technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Uniform Campus Crime Reports

Every Connecticut college and university must annually prepare a uniform campus crime report for each of its campuses with the help of state, local, and special campus police forces. The report must contain crimes committed in the immediately preceding calendar year on the property that the institution owns or controls, limited to the following offenses: (1) those published in the most recent edition of the FBI and Department of Justice's Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, part I, and (2) sexual assault, stalking, and family violence, as defined in state law.

Additional details that must appear in the annual report include (1) the number of full-time equivalent students and employees, (2) the number of students and employees living on campus, and (3) the number of reported incidents and the crime rate for each category of offense (CGS § 10a-55a(a)-(b)).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)