



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 253

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 5109

House of Representatives, April 6, 2021

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. ELLIOTT of the 88th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OF GRADUATION FEES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-77 of the general statutes is amended by adding
2 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (i) On and after July 1, 2021, the Board of Regents for Higher
4 Education shall not assess or charge a fee to any student enrolled in a
5 regional community-technical college for graduation from such regional
6 community-technical college.

7 Sec. 2. Section 10a-99 of the general statutes is amended by adding
8 subsection (i) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

9 (NEW) (i) On and after July 1, 2021, the Board of Regents for Higher
10 Education shall not assess or charge a fee to any student enrolled in the
11 Connecticut State University System for graduation from a state
12 university within such system.

13 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 10a-143 of the general statutes is
14 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
15 *2021*):

16 (e) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other
17 purposes as the board deems necessary on behalf of Charter Oak State
18 College and may make refunds and other disposition of same as
19 provided by law or regulation. The board may make contracts, leases or
20 other agreements in connection with its responsibilities. On and after
21 July 1, 2021, the Board of Regents for Higher Education shall not assess
22 or charge a fee to any student enrolled in Charter Oak State College for
23 graduation from such college.

24 Sec. 4. Section 10a-105 of the general statutes is amended by adding
25 subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

26 (NEW) (l) On and after July 1, 2021, the Board of Trustees of The
27 University of Connecticut shall not assess or charge a fee to any student
28 enrolled in The University of Connecticut for graduation from such
29 university.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-77
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-99
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-143(e)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-105

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Board of Regents for Higher Education	Various - Revenue Loss	95,000 to 140,000	95,000 to 140,000

Note: Various=Various

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which prohibits any constituent unit institution from charging a graduation fee, results in an annual revenue loss to the Board of Regents of approximately \$95,000 to \$140,000, beginning in FY 22. The bill affects Charter Oak State College within the Board of Regents as the other units do not charge a graduation fee.

The annual revenue loss to the Board of Regents is estimated to be \$95,000 to \$140,000 based on Charter Oak's recent numbers of students who have been charged the fee, a graduation fee of \$225 in FY 22 (unchanged in recent years), and enrollment levels. Since Charter Oak enrollment has been volatile, the estimate reflects a range of 429 to 619 students paying the graduation fee, which is ten percent lower and higher than recent numbers of students who have paid the fee.

The elimination of a graduation fee results in approximately a 13 to 20 percent reduction in projected fee revenue, or a total revenue reduction of 0.5 to 1 percent.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to changes in the number of students pursuing graduation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5109*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OF GRADUATION FEES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits the Board of Regents for Higher Education from assessing or charging a graduation fee to students enrolled in (1) a regional community-technical college, (2) the Connecticut State College and University System, or (3) Charter Oak State College.

The bill extends the same prohibition to the UConn Board of Trustees for UConn students' graduation fees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)