



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 280**

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 824

*Senate, April 6, 2021*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES' BUDGET AND AUTHORITY TO MERGE OR CLOSE INSTITUTIONS.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1,  
2 2022, each governing board of an independent institution of higher  
3 education in the state shall establish a policy requiring that any new  
4 member of such governing board, who has not previously served on  
5 such governing board, receive instruction and training in (1) financial  
6 management of institutions of higher education, (2) legal and fiduciary  
7 responsibilities of a member of such governing board, and (3) applicable  
8 standards for accreditation of institutions of higher education and  
9 programs of higher learning. Such instruction and training shall be  
10 completed within the first year of a new member joining a governing  
11 board.

12 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, each independent institution of  
13 higher education shall post on its Internet web site (1) the policy  
14 established by its governing board pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
15 section, and (2) a summary of the instruction and training received by  
16 the members of its governing board in accordance with such policy.

17 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2022,  
18 the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees of  
19 The University of Connecticut shall each adopt a policy requiring that  
20 any new member of said boards receive instruction and training in (1) a  
21 board member's duties to the state and the public institution of higher  
22 education governed by the board, (2) each committee of the board,  
23 including, but not limited to, the executive committee, and its functions,  
24 (3) professional accounting and reporting standards, (4) methods for  
25 meeting the statutory, regulatory and fiduciary obligations of the board,  
26 (5) the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in  
27 section 1-200 of the general statutes, (6) a board member's institutional  
28 and statutory ethical responsibilities, (7) the development and  
29 implementation of institutional policies, (8) business operations,  
30 administration, budgeting, financing, financial reporting, financial  
31 reserves and endowment managing relevant to institutions of higher  
32 education, (9) student tuition, mandatory fees and student debt trends,  
33 (10) oversight of planning, construction, maintenance, expansion and  
34 renovation projects that impact the infrastructure, physical facilities and  
35 natural environment of the public institution of higher education  
36 governed by the board, (11) workforce planning, strategy and  
37 investment, (12) institutional advancement, including, but not limited  
38 to, philanthropic giving, fundraising initiatives, alumni programming,  
39 communications and media, government and public relations and  
40 community affairs, (13) student welfare issues, including, but not  
41 limited to, academic studies, curriculum, residence life, student  
42 governance and activities and the general physical and mental well-  
43 being of students, (14) current and anticipated issues in higher  
44 education, and (15) any other topics each governing board deems  
45 necessary. Such instruction and training shall be completed within the  
46 first year of appointment or election of a new member to such boards.

47 (b) Not later than January 1, 2022, each public institution of higher  
48 education shall post on its Internet web site (1) the policy established by  
49 its governing board pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2) a  
50 summary of the instruction and training received by the members of its  
51 governing board in accordance with such policy.

52 Sec. 3. Section 10a-8 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

54 (a) The provisions of sections 4-77 and 4-78 shall not apply to the  
55 constituent units of the state system of higher education, and for the  
56 purposes of said sections only, the Board of Regents for Higher  
57 Education shall be deemed the budgeted agency for the Connecticut  
58 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
59 system, [and] Charter Oak State College and the central office of the  
60 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. The Board of Regents for  
61 Higher Education shall develop a formula or program-based budgeting  
62 system to be used by each institution in preparing operating budgets.  
63 The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall prepare a single  
64 budget request itemized by the Connecticut State University System, the  
65 regional community-technical college system, [and] Charter Oak State  
66 College and the central office of the Connecticut State Colleges and  
67 Universities using the formula or program-based budgeting system and  
68 shall submit such budget request displaying all operating funds to the  
69 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with  
70 sections 4-77 and 4-78, subject to procedures developed by the Board of  
71 Regents for Higher Education and approved by said secretary. The  
72 budget request shall set forth, in the form prescribed by the Board of  
73 Regents for Higher Education, a proposed expenditure plan which shall  
74 include: (1) The total amount requested for such appropriation account;  
75 (2) the amount to be appropriated from the General Fund; and (3) the  
76 amount to be paid from the tuition revenues of the regional community-  
77 technical college system, [and] the Connecticut State University System  
78 and Charter Oak State College. After review and comment by the Board  
79 of Regents for Higher Education, the proposed expenditure plans shall  
80 be incorporated into the single public higher education budget request

81 including recommendations, if any, by said board. Any tuition increase  
82 proposed by the regional community-technical college system, [and] the  
83 Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak State College for  
84 the fiscal year to which the budget request relates shall be included in  
85 the single public higher education budget request submitted by the  
86 Board of Regents for Higher Education for such fiscal year, provided if  
87 the General Assembly does not appropriate the amount requested by  
88 any such system or college, such system or college may increase tuition  
89 and fees by an amount greater than that included in the budget request  
90 in response to which the appropriation was made. The General  
91 Assembly shall make appropriations directly to the constituent units.  
92 Allotment reductions made pursuant to the provisions of subsections  
93 (b) and (c) of section 4-85 shall be applied by the Board of Regents for  
94 Higher Education among the appropriations to the constituent units and  
95 the central office without regard to the limitations on reductions  
96 provided in said section, except that said limitations shall apply to the  
97 total of the amounts appropriated. The Board of Regents for Higher  
98 Education shall apply such reductions after consultation with the  
99 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. Any reductions of  
100 more than five per cent of the appropriations of any constituent units  
101 shall be submitted to the appropriations committee which shall, within  
102 thirty days, approve or reject such reduction.

103 (b) The boards of trustees of each of the constituent units may transfer  
104 to or from any specific appropriation of such constituent unit a sum or  
105 sums totaling up to fifty thousand dollars or ten per cent of any such  
106 specific appropriation, whichever is less, in any fiscal year without the  
107 consent of the Finance Advisory Committee. Any such transfer shall be  
108 reported to the Finance Advisory Committee within thirty days of such  
109 transfer and such report shall be a record of said committee.

110 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 10a-77 of the general statutes is  
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
112 *2021*):

113 (b) The Board of [Trustees of the Community-Technical Colleges]

114 Regents for Higher Education shall establish and administer a fund to  
115 be known as the Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating  
116 Fund. Appropriations from general revenues of the state and, upon  
117 request by the board and with an annual review and approval by the  
118 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the amount of the  
119 appropriations for fringe benefits and workers' compensation  
120 applicable to the regional community-technical colleges pursuant to  
121 subsection (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the Comptroller,  
122 and all tuition revenue received by the regional community-technical  
123 colleges in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
124 section shall be deposited in said fund. Income from student fees or  
125 related charges; the proceeds of auxiliary activities and business  
126 enterprises, gifts and donations; federal funds and grants for purposes  
127 other than research, and all receipts derived from the conduct by the  
128 colleges of their education extension programs and summer school  
129 sessions shall be credited to said fund but shall be allocated to the central  
130 office and institutional operating accounts which shall be established  
131 and maintained for the central office and each community-technical  
132 college. If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management  
133 disapproves such transfer, the secretary may require the amount of the  
134 appropriation for operating expenses to be used for personal services  
135 and fringe benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State Treasurer  
136 shall review and approve the transfer prior to such request by the board,  
137 [of trustees.] The board shall establish an equitable policy, in accordance  
138 with section 10a-8, as amended by this act, for allocation of  
139 appropriations from general revenues of the state, fringe benefits  
140 transferred from the Comptroller and tuition revenue deposited in the  
141 Regional Community-Technical Colleges Operating Fund. At the  
142 beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, the board shall allocate and  
143 transfer, in accordance with said policy, moneys for expenditure in such  
144 institutional operating accounts, exclusive of amounts retained for  
145 central office operations and reasonable reserves for future distribution.  
146 All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
147 section shall be charged to the Regional Community-Technical Colleges  
148 Operating Fund. Repairs, alterations or additions to facilities supported

149 by operating funds and costing one million dollars or more shall require  
150 the approval of the General Assembly, or when the General Assembly  
151 is not in session, of the Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of  
152 receipts above expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums  
153 as may be required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General  
154 Fund for further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general  
155 obligation bonds of the state issued for purposes of the regional  
156 community-technical colleges.

157 Sec. 5. Subsection (b) of section 10a-99 of the general statutes is  
158 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
159 *2021*):

160 (b) The Board of [Trustees of the Connecticut State University  
161 System] Regents for Higher Education shall establish and administer a  
162 fund to be known as the Connecticut State University System Operating  
163 Fund. Appropriations from general revenues of the state and upon  
164 request by the Connecticut State University System and with the annual  
165 review and approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
166 Management, the amount of the appropriations for fringe benefits  
167 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the  
168 State Comptroller and all tuition revenue received by the Connecticut  
169 State University System in accordance with the provisions of subsection  
170 (a) of this section shall be deposited in said fund. Income from student  
171 fees or related charges, the proceeds of auxiliary activities and business  
172 enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants, subject to the  
173 provisions of sections 10a-98 to 10a-98g, inclusive, and all receipts  
174 derived from the conduct by a state university of its education extension  
175 program and its summer school session shall be credited to said fund  
176 but shall be allocated to the central office and institutional operating  
177 accounts which shall be established and maintained for the central office  
178 and each state university. Any such gifts and donations, federal funds  
179 and grants for purposes of research shall be allocated to separate  
180 accounts within such central office and institutional operating accounts.  
181 If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management disapproves  
182 such transfer, [he] the secretary may require the amount of the

183 appropriation for operating expenses to be used for personal services  
184 and fringe benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State Treasurer  
185 shall review and approve the transfer prior to such request by the  
186 university. The board [of trustees] shall establish an equitable policy, in  
187 accordance with section 10a-8, as amended by this act, for allocation of  
188 appropriations from general revenues of the state, fringe benefits  
189 transferred from the State Comptroller and tuition revenue deposited in  
190 the Connecticut State University System Operating Fund. At the  
191 beginning of each quarter of the fiscal year, the board shall allocate and  
192 transfer, in accordance with said policy, moneys for expenditure in such  
193 institutional operating accounts, exclusive of amounts retained for  
194 central office operations and reasonable reserves for future distribution.  
195 All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
196 section shall be charged to the Connecticut State University System  
197 Operating Fund. Repairs, alterations or additions to facilities supported  
198 by the Connecticut State University System Operating Fund and costing  
199 one million dollars or more shall require the approval of the General  
200 Assembly, or when the General Assembly is not in session, of the  
201 Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of receipts above  
202 expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums as may be  
203 required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General Fund for  
204 further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general obligation  
205 bonds of the state issued for purposes of the Connecticut State  
206 University System.

207 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is  
208 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
209 *2021*):

210 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish  
211 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the  
212 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
213 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and  
214 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,  
215 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
216 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)

217 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State  
218 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
219 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the  
220 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional  
221 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in  
222 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) [merge or close]  
223 recommend a merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut  
224 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
225 system and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria  
226 established by the board, provided (A) such [recommended merger or  
227 closing] recommendation shall require a two-thirds vote of the board,  
228 [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be sent,  
229 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
230 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance over matters  
231 relating to higher education, and [to the General Assembly] (C) such  
232 recommended merger or closing shall be approved by a majority vote  
233 of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of  
234 either house of the General Assembly not later than one year after  
235 receiving notice by the board pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this  
236 subdivision or the adjournment of the next regular session of the  
237 General Assembly, whichever is later, provided if the General Assembly  
238 fails to act, such recommended merger or closing shall be deemed  
239 approved; (6) review and approve mission statements for the  
240 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical  
241 college system and Charter Oak State College and role and scope  
242 statements for the individual institutions and campuses of such  
243 constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations for the  
244 establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board by the  
245 state universities within the Connecticut State University System, the  
246 regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College,  
247 and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the  
248 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; (8)  
249 develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the  
250 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical  
251 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions



252 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional  
253 community-technical college system and enforce standards through  
254 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and  
255 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated  
256 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State  
257 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
258 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the  
259 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make  
260 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State  
261 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
262 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in  
263 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives  
264 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study  
265 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions  
266 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of  
267 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
268 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)  
269 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)  
270 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher  
271 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section  
272 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as  
273 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs  
274 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the  
275 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
276 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University  
277 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
278 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into  
279 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its  
280 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate  
281 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;  
282 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records  
283 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;  
284 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly  
285 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,  
286 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State

287 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education  
 288 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for  
 289 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-  
 290 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all  
 291 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State University  
 292 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
 293 Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and (20) undertake  
 294 such studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational  
 295 interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional  
 296 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-8
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-77(b)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-99(b)
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	10a-6(a)

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), the subsection was divided into subdivisions for clarity and in Sections 1(b) and 2(b), "pursuant to subsection (a) of this section" was changed to "in accordance with such policy" for accuracy.

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: Various=Various

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires specific training for new college and university governing board members, which results in no fiscal impact to the constituent units, and makes some changes regarding the Board of Regents, which may result in a fiscal impact to the board.

**Section 2** requires the University of Connecticut's Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents to ensure that new board members complete training in numerous specified topics. This section results in no fiscal impact to the constituent units because any topics not currently covered in new member orientations can be added, using existing resources.

**Sections 3 through 5** result in no fiscal impact to the Board of Regents as it makes procedural, technical, and conforming changes to statutes involving the board. Among other changes, the bill requires the BOR to include the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) central office (i.e., system office) in their budget request submitted to the Office of Policy and Management. The central office is primarily funded by General Fund and other revenues received by the colleges and universities in the CSCU system, which is unchanged by the bill.

**Section 6** may prevent or delay for up to 12 to 16 months any savings

or costs anticipated to result from any college or university merger or closure approved by the Board of Regents. The bill requires an affirmative vote of the General Assembly within a specified timeframe equal to 12 to 16 months in order for the merger or closure to proceed (or the proposal is deemed accepted), which delays any anticipated costs or savings. The length of the delay would be equal to the amount of time between the General Assembly receiving merger or closure notice and the date of an affirmative vote (or deemed acceptance). If within the voting timeframe one chamber of the General Assembly rejects the merger or closure, the merger or closure will be halted, which prevents the realization of any savings or costs that would have resulted.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future. The fiscal impact depends on the length of delay described above and the amount of any one-time or annual savings or costs anticipated to result from a merger or closure.

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 824*****AN ACT REQUIRING TRAINING FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES' BUDGET AND AUTHORITY TO MERGE OR CLOSE INSTITUTIONS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires public and private Connecticut higher education institutions to train their new governing board members within the first year they serve. The bill establishes the required instruction and training topics, which include financial, legal and ethical, and institutional operation training topics, among others. By January 1, 2022, each institution must post on its website the training policy and a summary of the instruction and training board members received.

Additionally, the bill does the following:

1. requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) to make the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) central office a separate line item in the consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets and
2. eliminates 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 ways for the legislature to approve or reject merger or closure recommendations.

Lastly, the bill makes several conforming and technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

**§ 1 — PRIVATE INSTITUTION GOVERNING BOARD TRAINING**

The bill requires each private college and university governing board to establish a policy by January 1, 2022, that requires new, first-time board members to receive instruction and training within the first year of membership. The training topics must include (1) financial management of higher education institutions, (2) board members' legal and fiduciary responsibilities, and (3) applicable accreditation standards for higher education institutions and programs of higher learning.

## § 2 — PUBLIC INSTITUTION GOVERNING BOARD TRAINING

The bill requires BOR and the UConn Board of Trustees (BOT) to each adopt a policy by January 1, 2022, that requires new governing board members to receive instruction and training within the first year of appointment on the topics listed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Training Topics for BOR and UConn BOT Members**

<b><i>Board Operations and Member Duties</i></b>
A board member's duties to the state and the institution
Each board committee and its functions, including the executive committee
<b><i>Financial Matters</i></b>
Professional accounting and reporting standards
Business operations, administration, budgeting, financing, financial reporting, financial reserves, and endowment managing for higher education institutions
Institutional advancement, including philanthropic giving, and fundraising initiatives
<b><i>Legal and Ethical Matters</i></b>
Methods for meeting the board's statutory, regulatory, and fiduciary obligations
State Freedom of Information Act provisions
A board member's institutional and statutory ethical responsibilities
<b><i>Institutional Operations</i></b>
Development and implementation of institutional policies
Oversight of planning, construction, maintenance, expansion, and renovation projects that impact the institution's infrastructure, physical facilities, and natural

environment
Workforce planning, strategy, and investment
Alumni programming, communications and media, government and public relations, and community affairs
<b>Student Issues</b>
Tuition, mandatory fees, and student debt trends
Student welfare issues, including academic studies, curriculum, residence life, student governance and activities, and general physical and mental well-being
<b>General Higher Education Issues</b>
Current and anticipated higher education issues
Other topics each governing board deems necessary

**§§ 3-5 — BOR BUDGETING PROCESS**

The bill requires BOR to make the CSCU central office a separate line item in the consolidated operating and capital expenditure budgets that it submits to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) (see BACKGROUND). Under current law, the budget is itemized by each state university, regional community technical college, and Charter Oak State College.

The bill also exempts central office appropriations from the same statutory limits on allotment reductions (i.e., rescissions) that apply to the public colleges and universities.

**§ 6 — LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO MERGE OR CLOSE INSTITUTIONS**

The bill eliminates 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 for BOR to follow when recommending an institutional merger or closure and (2) establishes mechanisms for the legislature to approve or

reject the 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 action. 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 after receiving notice or by adjournment of the next regular legislative session, whichever is later, the merger or closure is deemed approved. Conversely, the merger or closure may be rejected by a majority vote of at least one chamber.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***BOR Budget Preparation***

By law, BOR must develop either a formula or a program-based budgeting system for each institution to use when preparing their requested operating budgets. Using the formula or system, BOR then prepares a single budget request to submit to the OPM secretary, itemized by university, regional community-technical college, and Charter Oak State College. The request has a proposed expenditure plan that includes the (1) total appropriation requested from the legislature, (2) amount to be appropriated from the General Fund, and (3) amount to be paid from tuition revenues (including any proposed tuition increases) (CGS § 10a-8(a)).

### ***Related Bills***

HB 5545 (File 145), favorably reported by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, contains the same provisions on BOR budgeting as §§ 3-5 of the bill.

HB 6403 (File 155), favorably reported by the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, contains the same provisions on legislative approval of merging or closing CSCU institutions as § 6 of



the bill.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)