



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

**Raised Bill No. 6403**

LCO No. 2936



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:  
(HED)

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

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10a-6 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
3 *2021*):

4 (a) The Board of Regents for Higher Education shall: (1) Establish  
5 policies and guidelines for the Connecticut State University System, the  
6 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
7 College; (2) develop a master plan for higher education and  
8 postsecondary education at the Connecticut State University System,  
9 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
10 College consistent with the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (3)  
11 establish tuition and student fee policies for the Connecticut State  
12 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
13 and Charter Oak State College; (4) monitor and evaluate the

14 effectiveness and viability of the state universities, the regional  
15 community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College in  
16 accordance with criteria established by the board; (5) [merge or close]  
17 recommend a merger or closing of institutions within the Connecticut  
18 State University System, the regional community-technical college  
19 system and Charter Oak State College in accordance with criteria  
20 established by the board, provided (A) such [recommended merger or  
21 closing] recommendation shall require a two-thirds vote of the board,  
22 [and] (B) notice of such recommended merger or closing shall be sent,  
23 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing  
24 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance over matters  
25 relating to higher education, and [to the General Assembly] (C) such  
26 recommended merger or closing shall be approved by a majority vote  
27 of both houses of the General Assembly or rejected by a majority vote of  
28 either house of the General Assembly not later than one year after  
29 receiving notice by the board pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this  
30 subdivision or the adjournment of the next regular session of the  
31 General Assembly, whichever is later, provided, if the General  
32 Assembly fails to act, such recommended merger or closing shall be  
33 deemed approved; (6) review and approve mission statements for the  
34 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical  
35 college system and Charter Oak State College and role and scope  
36 statements for the individual institutions and campuses of such  
37 constituent units; (7) review and approve any recommendations for the  
38 establishment of new academic programs submitted to the board by the  
39 state universities within the Connecticut State University System, the  
40 regional community-technical colleges and Charter Oak State College,  
41 and, in consultation with the affected constituent units, provide for the  
42 initiation, consolidation or termination of academic programs; (8)  
43 develop criteria to ensure acceptable quality in (A) programs at the  
44 Connecticut State University System, the regional community-technical  
45 college system and Charter Oak State College, and (B) institutions  
46 within the Connecticut State University System and the regional  
47 community-technical college system and enforce standards through  
48 licensing and accreditation; (9) prepare and present to the Governor and

49 General Assembly, in accordance with section 10a-8, consolidated  
50 operating and capital expenditure budgets for the Connecticut State  
51 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
52 and Charter Oak State College developed in accordance with the  
53 provisions of said section 10a-8; (10) review and make  
54 recommendations on plans received from the Connecticut State  
55 University System, the regional community-technical college system  
56 and Charter Oak State College to implement the goals identified in  
57 section 10a-11c; (11) appoint advisory committees with representatives  
58 from public and independent institutions of higher education to study  
59 methods and proposals for coordinating efforts of the public institutions  
60 of higher education under its jurisdiction with The University of  
61 Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
62 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (12) evaluate (A)  
63 means of implementing the goals identified in section 10a-11c, and (B)  
64 any recommendations made by the Planning Commission for Higher  
65 Education in implementing the strategic master plan pursuant to section  
66 10a-11b through alternative and nontraditional approaches such as  
67 external degrees and credit by examination; (13) coordinate programs  
68 and services among the Connecticut State University System, the  
69 regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
70 College; (14) assess opportunities for collaboration with The University  
71 of Connecticut and the independent institutions of higher education to  
72 implement the goals identified in section 10a-11c; (15) make or enter into  
73 contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its  
74 responsibilities under this part, provided all acquisitions of real estate  
75 by lease or otherwise shall be subject to the provisions of section 4b-23;  
76 (16) be responsible for the care and maintenance of permanent records  
77 of institutions of higher education dissolved after September 1, 1969;  
78 (17) prepare and present to the Governor and General Assembly  
79 legislative proposals affecting the Connecticut State University System,  
80 the regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State  
81 College; (18) develop and maintain a central higher education  
82 information system and establish definitions and data requirements for  
83 the Connecticut State University System, the regional community-

84 technical college system and Charter Oak State College; (19) report all  
85 new programs and program changes at the Connecticut State University  
86 System, the regional community-technical college system and Charter  
87 Oak State College to the Office of Higher Education; and (20) undertake  
88 such studies and other activities as will best serve the higher educational  
89 interests of the Connecticut State University System, the regional  
90 community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	10a-6(a)

**HED**      *Joint Favorable*