



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 6583

LCO No. 4294



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

**AN ACT REQUIRING INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION TO SUBMIT CLOSURE PLANS TO THE OFFICE OF
HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-34e of the general statutes is amended by
2 adding subsections (c) and (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (NEW) (c) Not later than January 1, 2022, each independent
4 institution of higher education shall submit to the Office of Higher
5 Education a closure plan, which shall include, but need not be limited
6 to, (1) how such institution will respond to a natural disaster, pandemic,
7 data security threat or other catastrophic event, and (2) how such
8 institution will manage student records, continuity of education for
9 enrolled students and student financial aid and refunds. An
10 independent institution of higher education that is regionally accredited
11 may comply with the requirements of this subsection by submitting to
12 said office the same closure plan that the institution submitted to the
13 regional accreditation agency. If an independent institution of higher
14 education updates its closure plan, then such institution shall submit

15 such updated closure plan not later than thirty days after the governing
16 board of such institution approves such updated closure plan.

17 (NEW) (d) Any independent institution of higher education that
18 plans to close permanently shall submit a written notice to the Office of
19 Higher Education not later than thirty days after the governing board of
20 such institution authorizes such closure. Such written notice shall
21 include, but need not be limited to, (1) the planned date of termination
22 of operations; (2) the planned date and location for the transfer of
23 student records; (3) the name and address of the organization that will
24 receive and maintain student records; (4) the name and contact
25 information of the designated office or official who will manage
26 transcript requests; (5) the arrangement for the continued education of
27 enrolled students through the facilitation of a teach-out, as defined in
28 section 10a-22m, or other means; (6) evidence of communication with
29 the United States Department of Education and said office regarding the
30 management of student refunds, state or federal grants and scholarships
31 and state loans; and (7) if such institution is regionally accredited,
32 evidence of communication with the regional accreditation agency
33 regarding such closure.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	10a-34e

Statement of Purpose:

To require independent institutions of higher education in the state to submit to the Office of Higher Education a closure plan and, if an institution plans to close, a written notice regarding the arrangements for such closure.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]