



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5136

LCO No. 1146



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF HOUSING-INSECURE
STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "housing insecurity" means the lack of security caused by high housing
3 costs relative to income, poor housing quality, unstable neighborhoods,
4 overcrowding or moving frequently, and "public institution of higher
5 education" means the constituent units of the state system of higher
6 education identified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of section 10a-1 of the
7 general statutes.

8 (b) On or before January 1, 2023, the Board of Trustees of The
9 University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher
10 Education shall develop and adopt a policy on students at the public
11 institutions of higher education governed by said boards who are
12 homeless or experiencing housing insecurity. Said boards shall consult
13 with students, faculty and staff of such institutions and local and state
14 organizations with subject matter expertise in homelessness and

15 housing insecurity to develop such policy. Said boards shall review such
16 policy at least annually and update such policy as deemed necessary
17 and after considering the results of any survey administered pursuant
18 to subsection (c) of this section.

19 (c) Not later than the start of the fall semester of 2023, and for each
20 semester thereafter, each public institution of higher education shall
21 administer a survey to each student enrolled at such institution for the
22 purpose of collecting data on the number of students who are homeless
23 or experiencing housing insecurity and the causes of and reasons for
24 such homelessness or housing insecurity. Such survey shall include, but
25 not be limited to, questions regarding a student's (1) demographic
26 background, including age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, marital
27 status, income, education and employment; (2) specific barriers to
28 accessing housing; and (3) awareness or use of community or
29 institutional resources to address homelessness and housing insecurity
30 and any barriers to accessing such resources. Based on the results of
31 such survey, each such institution shall amend any existing services or
32 programs or establish new services or programs to address the needs of
33 students who are homeless or experiencing housing insecurity.

34 (d) Each public institution of higher education in the state shall: (1)
35 Within available appropriations, make grants or provide other financial
36 assistance to students of the institution who are homeless or
37 experiencing housing insecurity to be used for housing costs; (2) within
38 available appropriations, make grants or provide other financial
39 assistance to such students to be used for housing costs at times when
40 such institution is closed for a period of more than seven days; (3)
41 establish a team comprised of students, faculty and staff of the
42 institution that is responsible for working with and supporting students
43 of the institution who are homeless or experiencing housing insecurity
44 and provide information regarding appropriate housing and mental
45 health resources for such students upon graduation; (4) employ a staff
46 member who serves as a liaison for the institution and whose duties
47 include identifying appropriate housing and mental health resources
48 available to such students and using trauma-informed practices to

49 mentor such students; (5) employ a staff member, in addition to the staff
50 member employed pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, who
51 serves as a liaison for the institution for lesbian, gay, bisexual,
52 transgender and queer students of the institution who are homeless or
53 experiencing housing insecurity; (6) provide trainings on trauma-
54 informed practices to enable faculty and staff of the institution to more
55 adequately respond to students of the institution who are homeless or
56 experiencing housing insecurity; and (7) provide or offer financial
57 assistance for such students to receive medical care and mental health
58 counseling to address issues surrounding homelessness or housing
59 insecurity.

60 (e) Not later than February 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the Board
61 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents
62 for Higher Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of
63 section 11-4a of the general statutes, the policy adopted pursuant to the
64 provisions of subsection (b) of this section and a report on the status of
65 the implementation of the provisions of subsection (d) of this section to
66 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
67 cognizance of matters relating to higher education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require public institutions of higher education to assess and address homelessness and housing insecurity among students.

[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.]