



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5350

LCO No. 2523



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A POLICY PROTECTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2023, the
2 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board of
3 Regents for Higher Education shall develop and adopt a policy on
4 freedom of expression at the public institutions of higher education
5 governed by said boards. Such policy shall include, but not be limited
6 to, (1) the goal of prioritizing freedom of expression in the fulfillment of
7 such institution's mission, including, but not limited to, freedom of
8 expression in research, teaching, discussion and debate, (2) the role of
9 the institution in protecting freedom of expression on campus,
10 including when the ideas or opinions expressed are disagreeable or
11 offensive, (3) reasonable limitations on time, place and manner of
12 expression, provided such limitations are content-neutral and necessary
13 to a compelling institutional interest, (4) allowance for protest or
14 demonstration by any person lawfully present on campus, including a
15 spontaneous protest or demonstration, provided such protest or

16 demonstration does not substantially or materially interfere with such
17 institution's function or in the ability of others to engage in or listen to
18 an expressive activity, (5) the designation of public areas on campus as
19 public forums that are open on the same terms to any speaker, and (6)
20 the availability of resources for protecting the safety and freedom of
21 expression of any speaker invited on campus by any student, student
22 group or faculty member, which resources shall be available on the same
23 terms to any invited speaker.

24 (b) Not later than February 1, 2023, the Board of Trustees of The
25 University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher
26 Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
27 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education
29 and the judiciary the policy adopted pursuant to the provisions of
30 subsection (a) of this section.

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 in the state to adopt a policy that protects freedom of expression on campus.

[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.]