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## OLR Bill Analysis

### HB 6355

#### ***AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENT MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill increases the number of UConn Board of Trustee (BOT) members from 21 to 23 by adding two additional student trustees elected by university students. The bill also increases the number of Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) members from 22 to 24 by adding two additional voting student advisory committee members.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

#### **ADDITIONAL UCONN BOT TRUSTEES**

Under existing law, the UConn BOT includes two student members: one elected by undergraduate students and one by graduate students, with the elections of one each in alternate years by July 1.

For the elections held by July 1, 2024, the bill requires UConn (1) undergraduate students to elect an additional undergraduate trustee to serve a one-year term and (2) graduate students to elect two graduate students to serve two-year terms (one under existing law and an additional one under the bill). As under existing law, the graduate student members must be enrolled in the School of Law, School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, or School of Social Work, or be a graduate student in a UConn school or college.

These student trustee positions (1) carry two-year terms after their initial terms and (2) must be filled by full-time students for the duration of their terms. Starting July 1, 2025, the bill requires that two members

be elected per year, with the graduate and undergraduate positions elected in alternate years.

Under existing law, the BOT also includes (1) 12 trustees appointed by the governor, (2) two trustees elected by alumni, and (3) five ex-officio members. Any vacancies must be filled by special election for the remainder of the expired term.

### **ADDITIONAL BOR MEMBERS**

Under existing law, the BOR's membership includes the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the student advisory committee. The bill increases the number of BOR members from 22 to 24 by adding two additional student advisory committee members: one Connecticut State University System student and one regional community-technical college student. Under the bill, these new members are elected by majority vote of the advisory committee.

Under existing law, in addition to the student advisory committee and faculty advisory committee members, the BOR also includes (1) nine members appointed by the governor; (2) four appointed by legislative leaders; and (3) the education, economic and community development, public health, and labor commissioners and the chief workforce officer, who serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22    Nay 0    (03/07/2023)