



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 128

January Session, 2023

House Bill No. 6355

House of Representatives, March 21, 2023

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. HADDAD of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) There shall continue to be a Board of Trustees [for] of The
4 University of Connecticut to consist of [twenty-one] twenty-three
5 persons, twelve to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the
6 state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; two to be elected by the
7 university alumni; [two] four to be elected by the students enrolled at
8 the institutions under the jurisdiction of said board; and five [members
9 ex officio] who shall serve as ex-officio members.

10 (b) On or before July 1, 1983, the Governor shall appoint [members]
11 trustees to the board as follows: Four [members] trustees for a term of
12 two years from said date; four [members] trustees for a term of four
13 years from said date; and four [members] trustees for a term of six years

14 from said date. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint trustees of said
15 university to succeed those appointees whose terms expire, and each
16 trustee so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the
17 first day of July in the year of his or her appointment, provided two of
18 the trustees appointed for terms commencing July 1, 1995, and their
19 successors shall be alumni of the university, one of the trustees
20 appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and his or her successors
21 shall be such alumni and one of the [members] trustees appointed for a
22 term commencing July 1, 1999, and his or her successors shall be such
23 alumni.

24 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of
25 Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
26 Development and the chairperson of The University of Connecticut
27 Health Center Board of Directors shall be, ex officio, members of the
28 board of trustees. The Governor shall be, ex officio, president of said
29 board.

30 (d) The graduates of all of the schools and colleges of said university
31 shall, prior to September first in the odd-numbered years, elect one
32 trustee, who shall be a graduate of the institution and who shall hold
33 office for four years from the first day of September succeeding his or
34 her election. Not less than two or more than four nominations for each
35 such election shall be made by the alumni association of said university,
36 provided no person who has served as an alumni trustee for the two full
37 consecutive terms immediately prior to the term for which such election
38 is to be held shall be nominated for any such election. Such election shall
39 be conducted by mail prior to September first under the supervision of
40 a canvassing board consisting of three members, one appointed by the
41 board of trustees, one by the board of directors of the alumni association
42 of the university and one by the president of the university. No ballot in
43 such election shall be opened until the date by which ballots must be
44 returned to the canvassing board. In such election, all graduates shall be
45 entitled to vote by signed ballots which have been circulated to them by
46 mail and which shall be returned by mail. Vacancies occurring by death
47 or resignation of either of such alumni trustees shall be filled for the

48 unexpired portion of the term by special election, if such unexpired term
49 is for more than eighteen months. When the unexpired term is eighteen
50 months or less, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the board
51 of directors of said alumni association.

52 (e) On or before November 1, 1975, the students of The University of
53 Connecticut shall, in such manner as the board of trustees of said
54 university shall determine, elect two trustees, each of whom shall be
55 enrolled as a full-time student of said university at the time of his or her
56 election. One such [member] trustee shall be elected for a term of one
57 year from November 1, 1975, and one for a term of two years from said
58 date. Prior to July first, annually, until and including the election held
59 on or before July 1, 2023, such students shall, in accordance with this
60 section and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect one
61 [member of said] trustee of the board, who shall be so enrolled at said
62 university at the time of his or her election and who shall serve for a
63 term of two years from July first in the year of his or her election. On or
64 before July 1, 2024, such students shall, in accordance with this
65 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect three
66 trustees, each of whom shall be enrolled as a full-time student at said
67 university at the time of his or her election. One such trustee shall be
68 elected for a term of one year commencing July 1, 2024, and the other
69 two trustees shall be elected for a term of two years from said date. On
70 or before July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, in accordance with this
71 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, such
72 students shall elect two trustees of the board who shall be enrolled as
73 full-time students at said university at the time of their election and who
74 shall serve for a term of two years from July first in the year of their
75 election. The student [member] trustee elected to fill the term expiring
76 on June 30, 2003, and the student trustee elected to fill the term
77 commencing on July 1, 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2025, and [such
78 elected member's] their successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time
79 undergraduate student at a school or college of the university and shall
80 be elected by the undergraduate students of the schools and colleges of
81 the university. The student [member] trustees elected to fill the term
82 expiring on June 30, [2004] 2026, and [such elected member's] their

83 successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the School of Law,
84 the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social
85 Work, or as a graduate student of a school or college of the university,
86 and shall be elected by the students of the School of Law, the School of
87 Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the School of Social Work and the
88 graduate students of the schools and colleges of the university. Any
89 student [member] trustee elected after July 1, 2013, shall be enrolled as
90 a full-time student at the time of his or her election and for the duration
91 of his or her term of service. Any vacancies in the elected membership
92 of said board shall, except as otherwise provided in this section, be filled
93 by special election for the balance of the unexpired term.

94 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a of the general statutes is
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
96 *2023*):

97 (a) There shall be a Board of Regents for Higher Education that shall
98 serve as the governing body for the regional community-technical
99 college system, the Connecticut State University System and Charter
100 Oak State College. The board shall consist of [~~twenty-two~~] twenty-four
101 members who shall be distinguished leaders of the community in
102 Connecticut. The board shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and
103 ethnic diversity. The voting members shall not be employed by or be a
104 member of a board of trustees for any independent institution of higher
105 education in this state or the Board of Trustees for The University of
106 Connecticut nor shall they be public officials or state employees, as such
107 terms are defined in section 1-79, during their term of membership on
108 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The Governor shall appoint
109 nine members to the board as follows: Three members for a term of two
110 years; three members for a term of four years; and three members for a
111 term of six years. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint members of the
112 board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member
113 so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day
114 of July in the year of his or her appointment. Four members of the board
115 shall be appointed as follows: One appointment by the president pro
116 tempore of the Senate, who shall be an alumnus of the regional

117 community-technical college system, for a term of four years; one
 118 appointment by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a
 119 specialist in the education of children in grades kindergarten to twelve,
 120 inclusive, for a term of three years; one appointment by the speaker of
 121 the House of Representatives, who shall be an alumnus of the
 122 Connecticut State University System, for a term of four years; and one
 123 appointment by the minority leader of the House of Representatives,
 124 who shall be an alumnus of Charter Oak State College, for a term of
 125 three years. Thereafter, such members of the General Assembly shall
 126 appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms
 127 expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of
 128 four years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment.
 129 The [chairperson and vice-chairperson] following members of the
 130 student advisory committee created under section 10a-3 shall serve as
 131 members of the board: (1) The chairperson, (2) the vice-chairperson, and
 132 (3) two members elected by a majority vote of the members of the
 133 student advisory committee, one of whom shall be a student of the
 134 Connecticut State University System and one of whom shall be a student
 135 of the regional community-technical colleges. The chairperson and vice-
 136 chairperson of the faculty advisory committee created under section
 137 10a-3a shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board for a
 138 term of two years and, in their respective roles as chairperson and vice-
 139 chairperson, may be invited to any executive session, as defined in
 140 section 1-200, of the board by the chairperson of the board. The
 141 Commissioners of Education, Economic and Community Development
 142 and Public Health, the Labor Commissioner and the Chief Workforce
 143 Officer shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	10a-103
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	10a-1a(a)

HED *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which increases both the number of UConn Board of Trustee members and the number of Board of Regents for Higher Education members, does not result in a fiscal impact as the changes are procedural and conforming.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)