

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6355

AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STUDENT MEMBERS ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE

Title: BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/16/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,
Representative Haddad, 54th District,
Representative Turco, 27th District

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill increases the number of student members on the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents from two student members, to four. This is in response to growing advocacy from students that the Board of Trustees and Regents should give student members greater representation. Increasing the number of student members would give influence within the governing bodies that make decisions that affect their university and student experiences, such as tuition and fee rates, financial aid policies, development projects, and academic standards.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees, Executive Secretary, Rachel Rubin:

opposes this bill because the Board of Trustees is larger and has more student members than most of the other public "flagship" universities in the country. It was stated that university governing boards typically consist of members who are independent of the university and possess expertise that helps make the best decisions for the institution. It was further stated that students at the University of Connecticut already have opportunities to be heard through existing student trustees and public hearings. This bill would be contrary to a compromise made between the Board of Trustees and the Undergraduate Student Government in 2017 which allows two more student members to serve solely on the Student Life committee.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[University of Connecticut, Graduate Student, Jillian Davey](#): supports this bill and suggested that the bill be amended to include a student trustee member from a UConn regional campus. She stated that many students at UConn's regional campuses are students of color, low-income, and that the interests of these students deserve a voice on the Board of Trustee

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

See agency response.

Reported by: Arthur Newberg

Date: 3/16/23