

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6565

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLAN OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE

Title: CENTERS NEAR CAMPUSES.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.: 130

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill would extend the deadline for the Board of Regents for Higher Education to submit a plan detailing how Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) and regional technical colleges intend to increase access to childcare centers to meet the identified needs of their student body on or near campuses. The deadline has been extended one year from January 1st, 2023, to January 1st, 2024. The lack of childcare services near college campuses makes it difficult for student parents to pursue their higher education. According to agency officials, providing additional time for the State's institutions of higher education to develop and implement a plan will ensure that the presented solutions are comprehensive and succinctly address the needs of students who require childcare.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State College and Universities, President, Terrence Cheng](#): supports this bill because it gives the CSCU system more time to plan and implement programs to increase access to childcare for its students. It was stated that the CSCU system previously submitted a plan by January 1, 2023, which outlined some programs that were already underway, and this bill would ensure that the plan submitted by January 1, 2024, is comprehensive and includes the progress of these programs in addition to new programs being implemented.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Central Connecticut State University, Professor, Fiona Pearson](#): stated that the lack of access to childcare centers negatively affects student parents within the CSCU system. Further stated that most of these student parents are women, single mothers, students of color, and/or low-income, and that research has shown that access to childcare may lead to higher rates of on-time graduation and persistence rates. By creating comprehensive childcare programs, CSCU may open itself up to receive more funds from the Federal Government to further develop these programs.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Arthur Newberg

Date: 3/16/2023