

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6771

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT

Title: OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL.

Vote Date: 3/7/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/2/2023

File No.: 169

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The Connecticut Open Educational Resource (OER) Coordinating Council is currently administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE). This bill seeks to establish the OER council as a part of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system and allow the CSCU president to appoint council members and a state-wide coordinator. Further provisions include allowing grant recipients to obtain different types of open copyright licensing, directing the development of a standardized model policy to be implemented across the State's higher education system, switching from annual to biennial legislative reports, and hiring a part-time employee to facilitate the OER council's workflow.

Moving the OER council to CSCU was recommended in the Governor's budget and would allow the CSCU system to directly administer and oversee the OER council as they have been primarily responsible for implementing the OER council. Allowing grant recipients other copyright licensing options will increase grant utilization and open the opportunity to more people. By developing a standardized model policy, the OER council can ensure all the State's institutions of higher education have congruent definitions, collection methods, and dispersal of open educational resources. Changes to the OER council reporting schedule and contents allows the necessary time to collect relevant data and develop recommendations for the legislature. Further, the hiring of a part time staff member would allow for the expansion of support and scaling of grant opportunities to better support faculty and their institutions serve Connecticut students and improve affordability and persistence.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

- In subsection (e)(6)(A), "the usage of" was removed for purposes of clarity.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None stated.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None stated.

Reported by: Lukas Houle

Date: 3/23/2023