

# Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1106

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL

**Title:** COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES.

**Vote Date:** 3/14/2023

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 3/2/2023

**File No.:** 200

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

All Community Colleges in Connecticut will be integrated into the CSCU system. This bill corrects a provision allowing the Connecticut community-technical colleges to retain or establish a supporting foundation after their merger into the CSCU system and have the campus president or CEO serve on the foundation's board. Existing requirements would have mandated that the 12 community colleges combine their funds into one support foundation, which is not conducive to meeting each school's distinct financial support needs. The bill also maintains the current state laws that apply to the community-technical colleges after the merger and authorizes a campus CEO to audit campus finances if necessary. Agencies maintain that these updates are necessary to allow individual community college foundations to operate and fundraise independently post integration into the CSCU system.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

This adopted amendment adds "and, if such public institution of higher education is an accredited state community-technical college, the chief executive officer of a campuses of such college" the section 1, subsection (3)(C), to amend the definition of "executive authority" and clarify that the CEO of the community college may continue to serve on their respective college's foundations.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Colleges and Universities \(CSCU\), President, Terrence Cheng](#): supports this bill as CSCU believes it clarifies existing statutes and allows individual community college foundations to continue operating as separate entities after the merger of the community colleges. CSCU suggests a clarification that a "public institution of higher education" include the campuses of CT State Community College and that their CEOs have executive authority to work with those foundations, which can be achieved by adding any campus of CT State Community College to the definition of a public institution of higher education. *\*The adopted amendment addresses the agencies concern*

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

See Administration/Agency Response.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Middlesex Community College Foundation, Chair, Chris Dibble](#): opposes this bill because of the need for legal mechanisms to protect the Community College Foundations' independent status. It is stated that the current legal language within this bill could pose a legal mandate for the twelve community college foundations to merge into one foundation. It is suggested that failure to protect each community college foundation's independence may result in challenges in fulfilling the original donors' intention, lead to an aggregate decline in donations, further fracture the relationship between the CSCU system and local communities, and could negatively affect underprivileged students whom the foundations' efforts most benefit.

[Manchester Community College Foundation, President, Peter Grose](#): opposes this bill suggesting that the bill be revised to clarify that the CEO of each campus serves as a non-voting member of each respective community college foundation's governing board. It is state that under the current language, the President of The CSCU system would be interpreted as this non-voting member, and he would prefer that the CEO of each respective campus be designated to serve in the role due how important the campus CEO is for fundraising and coordination between the foundation and the campus.

**Reported by: Arthur Newberg**

**Date: 3/23/2023**