
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5363

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the laws governing the Planning Commission for Higher Education, which is charged with revising and updating the 2015 strategic master plan for higher education in Connecticut.

The bill extends the commission's reporting deadlines by one year and requires all initial commission appointments to be made by June 1, 2024. If a voting member is not appointed by this date, the bill allows the chairperson to designate someone with the required qualification for the applicable appointment to serve on the commission. The bill requires the chairperson to schedule the commission's first meeting by July 1, 2024.

Current law requires appointed members to serve three-year terms. The bill requires that they continue to serve until their successor is appointed. It also specifies that a majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for transacting business.

The bill eliminates requirements that the commission (1) be in the Office of Higher Education (OHE), (2) be responsible for implementing any policies it develops, and (3) collaborate with the Office of Policy and Management in establishing subcommittees and working groups needed to supplement its work. It requires the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's administrative staff to serve in that capacity for the commission.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

REPORTING DEADLINES

The bill requires the commission to submit its:

1. preliminary report on the development of the updated strategic master plan by September 1, 2025, rather than September 1, 2024, and
2. updated plan by December 1, 2025, rather than December 1, 2024.

The bill correspondingly requires the plan to include specific goals and benchmarks for 2026 and 2030, rather than 2025 and 2030.

The bill also delays, from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2027, the deadline for the commission to submit its next annual report to the governor and legislature on the plan’s implementation and progress towards achieving its specified goals.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 0 (03/14/2024)