



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Substitute Bill No. 6567



AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A POLICY REGARDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than January 1, 2024,
2 the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut and the Board
3 of Regents for Higher Education shall each develop and adopt a policy
4 on freedom of expression at the public institutions of higher education
5 governed by said boards. Such policy shall include, but not be limited
6 to, (1) the goal of prioritizing freedom of expression in the fulfillment
7 of the institution's mission, including, but not limited to, freedom of
8 expression in research, teaching, discussion and debate, (2) the role of
9 the institution in protecting freedom of expression on campus,
10 including when the ideas or opinions expressed are disagreeable or
11 offensive, (3) reasonable limitations on time, place and manner of
12 expression, provided such limitations are content neutral and
13 necessary to a compelling institutional interest, (4) allowance for
14 protest or demonstration by any person lawfully present on campus,
15 including a spontaneous protest or demonstration, provided such
16 protest or demonstration does not substantially or materially interfere
17 with the institution's function or in the ability of others to engage in or
18 listen to an expressive activity, (5) the designation of public areas on
19 campus as public forums that are open on the same terms to any
20 speaker, (6) the availability of resources for protecting the safety and
21 freedom of expression of any speaker invited on campus by any
22 student, student group or faculty member, which resources shall be

23 available on the same terms to any invited speaker, and (7) allowance
24 for enrolled students to engage other students in discussion or to
25 distribute to other students written materials that are political, social,
26 educational, religious or cultural in nature in various locations
27 throughout campus, including, but not limited to, common areas of
28 dormitories and inside and outside of student union buildings,
29 provided (A) such discussion or distribution of written materials does
30 not substantially or materially interfere with such institution's
31 function; and (B) such discussion or written material is not, as
32 determined by the Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut
33 or the Board of Regents for Higher Education for the respective
34 institutions governed by said boards, obscene, defamatory, fraudulent,
35 an incitement of imminent violence or criminal action, fighting words,
36 true threats, integral to criminal conduct, pornographic or any other
37 category of speech found by any court of competent jurisdiction not to
38 be speech that is protected by the United States Constitution or the
39 Constitution of the state.

40 (b) Not later than February 1, 2024, the Board of Trustees of The
41 University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher
42 Education shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section
43 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
45 education the policy adopted pursuant to the provisions of subsection
46 (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a)(7)(B), "to be unprotected under" was changed to "not to be speech that is protected by" for clarity.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*